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*Life and Public Services of
Major-General Butler ...*

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General Benjamin F. Butler's Life and Services.

THE LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICES

Ed. Advertisement OF

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(BENJAMIN F. BUTLER.)

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LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICES

OF

MAJOR-GENERAL BENJ. F. BUTLER.

NO MAN has figured more prominently during the progress of the rebellion than Major-General BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BUTLER. He may not have distinguished himself upon the field of battle to the same extent as some of his compatriots; but wherever his sword has been unsheathed in actual service, it has never been returned to its scabbard save with the brightness of the steel made more brilliant by the victory which has crowned the efforts of the man of iron nerve and inflexible determination, who wielded it. Content with devising the plans by which others attain a proud eminence in the history of our country, he experiences an unselfish feeling of pride whenever his subordinates are enabled to rise from obscurity to that fame which always attends the true hero.

HIS BIRTHPLACE AND ANCESTORS.

General Butler was born on the fifth day of November, 1818, in South Deerfield, New Hampshire, an interior agricultural town or township, than which few others in that section of the State can boast of more romantic scenery. Beneath the shadow of the Patuccawa Moun-

tains he entered upon his existence, and from early boyhood, although more delicate than the children of the hardy yeomanry of Rockingham generally were, he manifested those powerful traits and characteristics which in after-life made him so distinguished. His grandfather was Captain Zephaniah Butler, of Connecticut, who served at Quebec under General Wolfe, and also in the Revolutionary war; and his father, John Butler, was a Captain of Light Dragoons from March, 1812, to March, 1814, and also served faithfully under General Jackson at New Orleans. After peace had been declared, the soldier became a sailor and engaged in the West India trade, sometimes as a supercargo, and again as the commander of a vessel, small but sufficiently capacious to contain a cargo, the sale of which rarely failed to add to the worldly possessions of its captain. In the spring of 1819, while his vessel was anchored in the harbor of one of the West India Islands, he fell a victim to the yellow-fever, and his widow found herself compelled with slender means to support her two sons. Mrs. Butler, however, was blessed with that energy and activity which the majority of New England mothers possess, and inherited from her ancestors, the Cilleys of the Granite State—a family whose representatives have graced every profession, and who, by their talents as displayed in the State and National halls of legislation, have gained an enviable position among the statesmen and patriots of the country—the traits which were to enable her in her loneliness to raise and educate her orphan children.

HIS YOUTH AND EDUCATION.

As a boy Benjamin F. Butler was an anxious student, and although enabled to gratify his desire for instruction only to a limited extent at the little school-house near the family homestead, the rudiments were eagerly studied, not

once but over and over again, while every thing readable, books, pamphlets, almanacs and newspapers, was read with avidity, and their contents committed to memory.

When Benjamin was ten years of age, Mrs. Butler removed with her two sons to Lowell, Massachusetts, then a small but flourishing town, where he had increased opportunities to pursue his studies, and by close application, devoting the hours set apart by his schoolmates for amusement, to his books and pencil, he passed from class to class in the common school, and from thence to the High School and the Academy at Exeter near his birth-place. At the age of sixteen he entered Waterville College in Maine, an institution founded under the auspices of the Baptists with a view of educating within its walls young men who might contemplate studying for the ministry, a profession which Mrs. Butler had long before selected for her son. Upon entering the College, he was small of stature and of delicate health, and as his resources were necessarily extremely limited, he subsequently worked a few hours in each day in making chairs, the insignificant profits from his labor being devoted to the cancelling of a portion of his expenses. During his stay at Waterville, he was an attentive student, but not always obedient to the strict rules and regulations by which the discipline was enforced; and numerous anecdotes are related of the misunderstandings and differences of opinion which occasionally existed between professors and pupils. One is thus reported: One of the professors preached in the College-chapel a sermon in which he maintained that the elect only will be saved; that probably not more than one in a hundred of the persons usually denominated Christians will be so rescued; and that the heathen have a better chance of being saved than their civilized brethren who neglect to avail themselves of the opportunities offered to secure their salvation. Young Butler, anxious to be

relieved from the necessity of attending Divine worship, immediately after he left the church drew up a petition asking to be excused from prayers and sermons thereafter, on the ground that if the doctrines of the professor were correct, he was only injuring his prospects of reaching a better world by attending service, as the chapel usually contained about six hundred persons, nine of whom were his professors and tutors, and as only one in a hundred could be saved, three of the faculty must be damned, and how could he expect to be saved before his superiors. He saw nothing but perdition in the future, and to relieve him from the annoyance and anguish of having his sad fate daily pointed out to him when there was no hope of salvation, he respectfully requested that his seat in the sacred edifice might be vacant. The authorities to whom it was addressed failed to see any thing amusing in the document, and publicly reprimanded its author for irreverence.

HE LEAVES COLLEGE AND BECOMES A LAWYER.

In 1838 he graduated, not very high in his class, and soon after, with a view of recruiting his impaired health, he accompanied an uncle, the captain of a fishing-craft, to the coast of Labrador; and after an absence of four months, during which he performed all the nautical duties which his uncle imposed upon him, returned to Lowell well and robust, and immediately entered upon the study of law, which he zealously prosecuted until he was admitted to the bar in 1840. While preparing himself for the profession of which he was in after-years destined to be a prominent member, he was frequently the attorney in petty criminal and civil cases, and during a portion of the time taught public-school. For a period of ten years after being admitted to the bar, Mr. Butler practised in Lowell; and at the end of that time also opened

an office in Boston, in the former of which he regularly thereafter was to be found throughout the year, in the early hours of the day and during the evening, while the remainder of the day was spent in his Boston office. Perseverance and attention, combined with unusual ability and a retentive memory, secured him a lucrative practice, and in 1861 he is reported to have had the most profitable legal patronage of any member of the bar in New England. A fellow-practitioner expressed the belief that he tried at least four times more cases than any other lawyer in the State, during the ten years preceding the war. The same authority thus particularly refers to his claims to superiority: "Fertile in resources and stratagem; earnest and zealous to an extraordinary degree; certain of the integrity of his client's cause, and not inclined to criticise or inquire whether it was strictly 'constitutional' or not, but defending the whole line with a boldness and energy that generally carried court and jury alike. His ingenuity is exhaustless. He is faithful and tenacious to the last degree. There is no possibility of treachery in his conduct. 'He would not betray the devil to his fellow.' He is quite too ready, I have sometimes thought, to forgive (he never forgets) injuries, but his memory never fails as to his friends. No man in America can remember facts, important and unimportant, like General Butler. Whatever enters his mind remains there forever. Practice for a long series of years had so disciplined his mind in this respect, that I think it quite impossible for him to forget."

HIS POLITICAL HISTORY.

Mr. Butler early became interested in the political questions of the day, and was an earnest advocate of the principles and doctrines of the Democratic party.

Before he had attained the years of manhood, he

attempted by his eloquence to successfully combat the remarks of distinguished men of the opposition, generally largely in the majority. In 1853 he was elected a member of the Massachusetts Assembly, and in 1859-60 was in the Senate of the same State. While in the Legislature he was one of the leaders of the opposition to the old banking system, and with his usual daring offered a bill to compensate for loss incurred by the burning by a mob of the Ursuline convent at Charlestown. In 1853 he represented Lowell in the Convention to revise the Constitution of Massachusetts, and in April, 1860, was a delegate to the Democratic Convention held in Charleston, to nominate candidates for the Presidency and Vice Presidency. Although not really a "pro-slavery Democrat," as many assert, he believed that the people of the Union should adhere strictly to the letter and spirit of the Constitution and the laws, even should such adherence indorse the establishment of the "peculiar institution" in the territories. In a speech delivered in February, 1860, he condemned alike, in language which left no doubt of his meaning upon the minds of his audience, the indiscreet acts and words of Northern abolitionists and Southern fire-eaters, who, indulging in criminations and recriminations through a series of years, had at last induced the residents of their respective sections to engage in an unhappy controversy. He then continued: "Let us proclaim to all men that the Union, first and foremost of all the good gifts of God, must and shall be preserved. That it is a duty we recognize and will fulfil, to grant to every part of the country its rights as guaranteed by the Constitution, and due by the compact. That we will, and every part of the country shall, respect those institutions of every other part of the country, with which they and we have nothing to do, save to let them alone, whether they are palatable to us or not.

We have the right to form our own domestic institutions as we please, to our own liking, and not to any other community's liking, and will exercise that right, and under the Constitution, must be protected in that right. Every other State has the same right to please herself in her own institutions, and is not obliged to please us in her selection of them ; and as in duty, and of right bound to do, we will protect her in that right, whether we like them or not. It is well to pledge ourselves to each other, that whenever occasion demands, we will march as one man to protect our beloved country from all dismemberment, and to hang the traitor who shall by overt act attempt it."


GENERAL BUTLER IN THE CHARLESTON CONVENTION.

With these views he attended the Charleston Convention, and soon after the organization was selected to represent Massachusetts in the committee appointed to construct the Platform. When the hour arrived for the committee to report the result of their conference, three reports were submitted ; one from the majority, demanding a slave code for the territories and protection to the slave trade : one from the minority, leaving all questions relating to slavery in the territories to the decision of the Supreme Court ; and a third from Mr. Butler, declaring the affirmance of the Democratic party to the resolutions adopted and declared as a platform of principles at Cincinnati, in 1860, without addition or alteration ; and expressing the belief that it was the duty of the United States to extend its protection alike over all its citizens, whether native or naturalized. After the other reports had been explained and argued, Mr. Butler obtained the floor, and made a lengthy speech in advocacy of the report he had presented, concluding by advising the body to adopt it and then nominate some "firm, trustworthy,

out-and-out, hard-working Democrat for President, and go home and elect him." This argument was conclusive, and the report with a few unimportant alterations was adopted by a vote of 230 to 40. Although knowing that the South was bitterly opposed to the nomination of Judge Douglas, with no possibility of him receiving the support of the great mass of the Democratic party of the Northern States, the Lowell representative, in accordance with the preferences of his constituents, voted seven times for Mr. Douglas, and then as he states "looked around to throw my vote where, at least, it would not mislead anybody," and strange to say the man who now sits in the Executive chair at Richmond, Jefferson Davis, and who has maligned and abused General Butler during the rebellion without stint, was the one whom he selected as the "statesman of national fame and reputation," best entitled to receive his support. Adjourning to Baltimore, the same hostility to the nomination of Judge Douglas was evinced by his opponents in the Convention, and after all hopes of compromise were dispelled, the subject of our sketch went out with the opponents, and nominated Mr. Breckenridge, who declared his devotion to the Union and the Constitution and his opposition to secession under any circumstances.

HIS RETURN HOME.

Mr. Butler's reception upon his return to Lowell was such as he might have expected to receive after having adopted a course so repugnant to the views of his constituents, and for some time they refused to allow him the privilege of explaining the reasons which prompted him to cast his vote for the obnoxious aspirant for the Presidential nomination. Subsequently he was selected by the Breckenridge wing of the party as their candidate for the Gubernatorial position of Massachusetts—a position to



which some years before he had aspired, but unsuccessfully. His defeat on this occasion was even more marked, as he only received an insignificant support, not amounting in all to more than six thousand votes.

HE ENDEAVORS TO CONVINCE THE TRAITORS.

In December, 1860, General Butler visited Washington, and, calling upon one Southern friend after another, endeavored to convince them how erroneous was their course; how futile must be their efforts to break up the Union. The Commissioners appointed by South Carolina to present to the President the ordinance of secession and to provide for the separation of that State from the Union, were then at the Capital, and he used his utmost endeavors to convince them that if they continued in their course it could result in nothing but their own destruction, and that the North would fight until the last drop of blood and the last cent of money had been expended. In answer to a question from one of the traitors, whether he (General Butler) would fight in such a cause, he promptly and nobly replied: "Yes! and by the grace of God I will;" and subsequently in a conversation with the United States Attorney-General he advised that the President should admit the Commissioners when they called upon their treasonable mission, and that they should then be placed in the custody of the Marshal as prisoners of State, charged with treason to their country. "Let them then be tried before the Supreme Court, and if they are convicted let them be executed. Time will be gained, and both sides will pause to watch the progress of the dignified proceeding, and passion and prejudice will be allayed. I will remain here and help the District Attorney without fee or reward." Such in brief was the excellent advice offered by the man upon whom probably more than any other prominent influential citizen of the North the Disunionists

relied for support and assistance. The plan, however, was not palatable to Mr. Buchanan, who was afraid of agitating the Southern people, and was of course rejected. Again he conversed with the Commissioners upon their folly, and again he indignantly spurned their tempting offers to unite with them.

Returning to Massachusetts, he confided to Governor Andrew the information he had received at Washington, and at his suggestion immediate preparations were made to place the militia in a condition to respond promptly to any call that might be made for their services. The patriot then returned to his legal practice, and when the first call for troops from Massachusetts was made, he was pleading a case in court.

IS APPOINTED BRIGADIER-GENERAL AND TAKES THE FIELD.

General Butler had in early manhood entered the State service as a private in the City Guard, a company which afterwards formed a portion of the Sixth Massachusetts regiment, and had gradually been promoted from grade to grade until in April, 1861, we find him a Brigadier-General. Thanks to the preparations suggested by him and the foresight of Governor Andrew, in less than twenty-four hours his brigade, although hundreds of the men composing it were scattered through a large extent of country, was drawn up in line in Boston awaiting the order to march. That same afternoon the Sixth left for Washington. Their bloody march through Baltimore is a matter of history which our limited space will not allow us to repeat. General Butler then by his influence procured a loan for the State from a bank in Boston, of fifty thousand dollars, and telegraphed to Senator Wilson that as a brigade had been ordered, a brigadier would be required. An officer of that rank was immediately called for, and on the seven-

teenth Benjamin F. Butler was selected for the position by the Governor. The next day, after having seen his other regiments despatched, he left Boston with the Eighth for Washington. Upon arriving in Philadelphia he was startled and horrified by the sad tidings that some of his gallant men had been murdered by a mob in the streets of Baltimore, and that the travel to that city had been interrupted by the destruction of the railroad and bridges. To proceed under the circumstances, with no facilities for transportation, was impossible, and, marching his men to a vacant hotel-building, he gave them comfortable quarters, while he consulted by telegraph with Governor Andrew and conversed with prominent officials in Philadelphia. Before he retired that night he had determined upon the course to pursue. The exaggerated reports naturally incident to the great excitement which prevailed had it, that the ferry-boat which plied across the Susquehanna had been seized by the Secessionists, and he determined to march his regiment to the river, regain possession of the steamer, and use it for the transportation of his troops to Annapolis, a route which obviated the necessity of passing through Baltimore, and a point which, once reached, would place his command in a position to afford assistance if Washington was attacked.

HE LEAVES PHILADELPHIA FOR ANNAPOLIS.

On the morning of the twentieth of April General Butler and the Eighth regiment left Philadelphia in the cars for Perryville, on the north bank of the Susquehanna and opposite the Havre de Grace; and arriving within a mile or two of the river, the train was halted, the men eager and ready for the fray alighted, and two of the companies having been sent in advance as skirmishers, the regiment, over seven hundred strong, took up its line of march; but upon reaching the little village, the falsity of the reports

were made manifest by the quiet which prevailed therein, and by the peaceful aspect of the "Maryland" as she lay alongside of the railroad pier. Taking possession and stowing his men on board, he the same evening got under way and at midnight was in the harbor of Annapolis.

HIS ARRIVAL AT ANNAPOLIS.

He found the residents in an excited state and firm in their determination to prevent the passage of Northern troops over the soil of Maryland; the railroad to the Junction had been destroyed; the "Constitution," which had been used as a practice-ship for the midshipmen of the Naval Academy, was in danger; and the naval officers in command, although brave and prepared to make a defence, naturally believed that efforts to protect the Government property would be unsuccessful. Governor Hicks addressed a communication to General Butler earnestly advising him not to land his troops, as prudence dictated their debarkation at some other point where the excitement was not so intense, and the Quartermaster of the post notified him that as it was impracticable to procure cars, he had better remain on board until he received further orders from General Scott. In response to the Governor, General Butler addressed the following note:

CHARACTERISTIC EPISTLES.

"I had the honor to receive your note by the hands of Lieutenant Matthews, of the United States Naval School, at Annapolis. I am sorry that your Excellency should advise against my landing here. I am not provisioned for a long voyage. Finding the ordinary means of communication cut off by the burning of railroad bridges by a mob, I have been obliged to make this detour, and hope that your Excellency will see, from the very necessity of the case, that there is no cause of excitement in the mind of any good citizen because of our being driven here by an extraordinary casualty. I should at once obey, however, an order from the Secretary of War."

To the Quartermaster he wrote as follows:

"I am grieved to hear that it is impracticable for you to procure cars for the carriage of myself and command to Washing-

ton, D. C. Cars are not indispensable to our progress. I am not instructed that you were to arrange for the transporting of my command; if so, you would surely have been instructed as to our destination. We are accustomed to much longer journeys on foot in pursuance of our ordinary avocations. I can see no objection, however, to our remaining where we are until such time as orders may be received from General Scott. But without further explanation from yourself, or greater inconveniences than you suggest, I see no reason why I should make such delay. Hoping for the opportunity of an immediate personal interview, I remain, etc."

HE RESCUES THE "CONSTITUTION" AND PREPARES TO LAND.

The next morning Captain Blake, the Commandant at the Academy, went aboard the steamer to solicit assistance in rescuing the Constitution, which was aground and threatened; and in a few hours the noble frigate, with a chosen band of Massachusetts patriots on board, was moved from her position to a place of safety. General Butler decided to go ashore and visit the authorities, and in an interview with the Governor and the Mayor he was again advised not to land, as his progress beyond the town would be impeded, and the residents would neither give nor sell him supplies. The General replied that he must and should go to Washington, with or without the assistance of the people of Annapolis, and that there was more than one mode of obtaining provisions in case of refusal to sell. On the morning of the twenty-second the New York Seventh regiment arrived, and General Butler issued an order from which we make the following extract:

"The purpose which could only be hinted at in the orders of yesterday has been accomplished. The frigate Constitution has lain for a long time at this port substantially at the mercy of the armed mob which sometimes paralyzes the otherwise loyal State of Maryland. Deeds of daring, successful contests, and glorious victories had rendered Old Ironsides so conspicuous in the naval history of the country, that she was fitly chosen as the school in which to train the future officers of the navy to like heroic acts. It was given to Massachusetts and Essex County first to man her; it was reserved to Massachusetts to have the

honor to retain her for the service of the Union and the laws. This is a sufficient triumph of right—a sufficient triumph for us. By this the blood of our friends shed by the Baltimore mob is in so far avenged. The Eighth regiment may hereafter cheer lustily upon all proper occasions, but never without orders. The old 'Constitution,' by their efforts, aided untiringly by the United States officers having her in charge, is now safely 'possessed, occupied, and enjoyed' by the government of the United States, and is safe from all her enemies.

"We have been joined by the Seventh regiment of New York, and together we propose peaceably, quietly, and civilly, unless opposed by some mob or other disorderly persons, to march to Washington in obedience to the requisition of the President of the United States; and if opposed, we shall march steadily forward. My next order, I hardly know how to express. I cannot assume that any of the citizen soldiery of Massachusetts or New York could, under any circumstances whatever, commit any outrages upon private property in a loyal and friendly State; but fearing that some improper person may have by stealth introduced himself among us, I deem it proper to state that any unauthorized interference with private property will be most signally punished, and full reparation therefor be made to the injured party, to the full extent of my power and ability. In so doing I but carry out the orders of the War Department. I should have done so without those orders."

He then sent a formal request to Governor Hicks for permission to land, but no answer being received and his men suffering from the privations unexpectedly encountered, he sent word to his Excellency that he intended to debark immediately—an intention which the Governor attempted to thwart by written protest, and urging that, if the landing was persisted in, no halt should be made in the town.

HE OCCUPIES ANNAPOLIS AND THE RAILROAD.

That afternoon both regiments landed at the grounds of the Naval Academy, and with two companies of the Eighth he marched to the other end of the town and seized the railroad depot and storehouse. An old, damaged and dirty locomotive was found in one of the buildings, and, strange to say, among the captors was a private, Charles

Homans, who had been an employ  e in the shop in which the engine had been built. His knowledge was of vast service at that important moment, and without delay it was brought into requisition and the engine placed under repair. The next day two companies were sent out on a reconnoissance along the railroad without meeting with the rumored enemy ; the residents received without hesitation the money of the soldiers for their wares ; and General Butler wrote some of his characteristic letters to State and railroad officials, among them the following :

“HEAD-QUARTERS, U. S. MILITIA,

“ANNAPOLIS, Md., April 23d, 1861.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THOMAS H. HICKS, *Governor of Maryland.*

“I did myself the honor, in my communication of yesterday, wherein I asked permission to land on the soil of Maryland, to inform you that the portion of the militia under my command were armed only against the disturbers of the peace of the State of Maryland and of the United States.

“I have understood within the last hour that some apprehension is entertained of an insurrection of the negro population of this neighborhood. I am anxious to convince all classes of persons that the forces under my command are not here in any way to interfere, or countenance an interference, with the laws of the State. I, therefore, am ready to co-operate with your excellency in suppressing most promptly and efficiently any insurrection against the laws of the State of Maryland. I beg, therefore, that you announce publicly, that any portion of the forces under my command is at your excellency’s disposal, to act immediately for the preservation of the peace of this community. I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

“B. F. BUTLER, *Brig. Gen’l.*”

Although the apprehensions of the citizens at the reported slave insurrection were naturally much allayed by this letter, which from its tenor soon obtained publicity, the Governor deemed it advisable to issue another of his protests. It was as follows :

“EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, ANNAPOLIS,

“Friday, April 23d, 1861.

“TO BRIGADIER-GENERAL B. F. BUTLER:

“SIR: Having, by virtue of the powers vested in me by the constitution of Maryland, summoned the Legislature of the State

to assemble on Friday, the 26th instant, and Annapolis being the place in which, according to law, it must assemble; and having been credibly informed that you have taken military possession of the Annapolis and Elk Ridge railroad, I deem it my duty to protest against this step; because, without at present assigning any other reason, I am informed that such occupation of said road will prevent the members of the Legislature from reaching this city. Very respectfully yours, T. H. Hicks."

To this, General Butler replied :

"You are correctly informed that I have taken possession of the Annapolis and Elk Ridge railroad. It might have escaped your notice, but at the official meeting which was had, between your excellency and the mayor of Annapolis and the committee of the government and myself, as to the landing of my troops, it was expressly stated, as the reason why I should not land, that my troops could not pass the railroad, because the company had taken up the rails, and they were private property. It is difficult to see how it can be, that if my troops could not pass over the railroad one way, the members of the Legislature could pass the other way. I have taken possession for the purpose of preventing the execution of the threats of the mob, as officially represented to me by the master of transportation of the railroad in this city, 'that if my troops passed over the railroad, the railroad should be destroyed.'

"If the government of the State had taken possession of the road in any emergency, I should have long hesitated before entering upon it; but as I had the honor to inform your excellency in regard to another insurrection against the laws of Maryland, I am here armed to maintain those laws, if your excellency desires, and the peace of the United States against all disorderly persons whatsoever. I am endeavoring to save and not to destroy; to obtain means of transportation, so that I can vacate the capital prior to the sitting of the Legislature, and not be under the painful necessity of incumbering your beautiful city while the Legislature is in session. I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your excellency's obedient servant,

"B. F. BUTLER, *Brig. Gen.*"

The repairs to the locomotive having been effected, the General issued an order to the following effect :

"The detachment of the Eighth, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Hinks, which has already pushed forward and occupied the railroad three and one-half miles, will remain at its advance until joined by two companies of the New York Seventh, which will take the train now in our possession, and push forward as far as the track is left uninjured by the mob. These companies will then leave the cars, and, throwing out proper skirmishers, carefully scour the country along the line

of the road, while the working party of the Eighth is repairing the track; taking care, however, not to advance so fast as not to be in reach of the main body, in case of an attack. The train of cars will return, and take up the advanced detachment of the Eighth, now holding possession of the depot. These will again go forward as far as can be done with safety, on account of the state of the track, when they will leave the train, assist the party repairing it, and push forward as rapidly as possible, taking care that the track is put in order for the passage of the train. In the meantime, the train will return to the depot, and taking on board such a portion of the baggage as may be proper, will again go forward. The remaining portions of the Massachusetts and New York regiments will put themselves on the march, and consolidate the two regiments as rapidly as possible."

Directions were also given as to the course to be pursued if attacked, and in reference to the regard which should be paid to private property. With the departure from Annapolis commenced the labor and exposure, but the enterprise of the Yankee soldiery was not to be permanently checked by the important work intrusted to their hands by their commander. A mile of repairs in an hour was all that the two regiments could accomplish. Rails had been torn from their fastenings and thrown into divers places of concealment; ties wrested from their position and burned; and the torch had been effectively applied to the bridges. One difficulty after another was surmounted, and on the afternoon of the following day (April 25th) the Seventh New York marched into Washington without having met with armed opposition.

THE DEPARTMENT OF ANNAPOLIS.

General Butler remained at Annapolis superintending the landing and subsequent movement of the thousands of troops who began to arrive from all parts of the loyal North, and on the 27th instant the War Department issued an order creating a new Military Department to be called the Department of Annapolis, and to include the country for twenty miles on each side of the railroad from Annapolis to the city of Washington, as far as Bladensburg,

Maryland, and assigning General Butler to the command. Few who had occasion to visit the ancient town during the latter days of April, 1861, will forget the interview which they were compelled to have with the General Commanding, before they could walk at will beyond the walls of the Naval Academy grounds. Seated in a large room in the main school-building, surrounded by his staff and numerous clerks, day and night, early and late, could this representative of New England loyalty be found, ever firm in his determination to carry out the regulations he deemed best adapted to the exigency, yet always courteous to the hundreds of visitors who thronged his office. Troops were despatched; actual or suspected rebel emissaries were arrested and examined; extensive purchases of supplies were made; and citizens were received and their questions or complaints promptly answered.

There was no confusion, no dissatisfaction, and General Butler abundantly proved that he was just the man for the position. While attending to those around him, he also kept his eye upon an important body which had convened at Frederick—the Maryland Legislature—and gave its members to understand that if they passed an ordinance of secession, he would arrest the entire Senate and House of Representatives. The annoyances to which he was subjected were sufficient to cause a less energetic officer to fail, but there is only one instance on record of his having lost his temper. A correspondent of a newspaper, who, finding the hotels full and the floors of the numerous buildings of the Academy covered with weary soldiers, came at midnight to the General's room and besought him to designate the place where he could sleep that night. The answer he received, and which doubtless he to this day remembers, was as follows: "Sir, I have done to-day about every thing that a man ever did in this world, but I am not going to turn chambermaid."

CORRESPONDENCE WITH GOVERNOR ANDREW.

His offer made on the 23d of April to Governor Hicks to co-operate in suppressing negro insurrection, subsequently caused the following communications to pass between Governor Andrew and himself:

GOVERNOR ANDREW TO GENERAL BUTLER.

“COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

“EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

“COUNCIL CHAMBER, BOSTON, *April 25, 1861.*

“GENERAL: I have received, through Mayor Ames, a despatch transmitted from Perryville, detailing the proceedings at Annapolis from the time of your arrival off that port until the hour when Major Ames left you to return to Philadelphia. I wish to repeat the assurance of my entire satisfaction with the action you have taken, with a single exception. If I rightly understood the telegraphic despatch, I think that your action in tendering to Governor Hicks the assistance of our Massachusetts troops to suppress a threatened servile insurrection among the hostile people of Maryland was unnecessary. I hope that the fuller despatches, which are on their way from you, may show reasons why I should modify my opinion concerning that particular instance; but, in general, I think that the matter of servile insurrection among a community in arms against the Federal Union, is no longer to be regarded by our troops in a political, but solely in a military point of view, and is to be contemplated as one of the inherent weaknesses of the enemy, from the disastrous operations of which we are under no obligation of a military character to guard them, in order that they may be enabled to improve the security which our arms would afford, so as to prosecute with more energy their traitorous attacks upon the Federal government and capital. The mode in which such outbreaks are to be considered, should depend entirely upon the loyalty or disloyalty of the community in which they occur; and in the vicinity of Annapolis, I can, on this occasion, perceive no reason of military policy, why a force summoned to the defence of the Federal government, at this moment of all others, should be offered to be diverted from its immediate duty, to help rebels, who stand with arms in their hands, obstructing its progress toward the city of Washington. I entertain no doubt that whenever we shall have an opportunity to interchange our views personally on this subject, we shall arrive at entire concordance of opinion. Yours faithfully,

“JOHN A. ANDREW.”

GENERAL BUTLER TO GOVERNOR ANDREW.

"DEPARTMENT OF ANNAPOLIS,

"HEAD-QUARTERS, ANNAPOLIS, May 2, 1861.

"TO HIS EXCELLENCY JOHN A. ANDREW,

"Governor and Commander-in-Chief:

"SIR:—I have delayed replying to your excellency's despatch of the 25th April, in my other despatches, because as it involved only disapprobation of an act done, couched in the kindest language, I supposed the interest of the country could not suffer in the delay; and incessant labor up to the present moment, has prevented me giving full consideration to the topic. Temporary illness, which forbids bodily activity, gives me now a moment's pause.

"The telegraph, with more than usual accuracy, had rightly informed your excellency that I had offered the services of the Massachusetts troops under my command to aid the authorities of Maryland in suppressing a threatened slave-insurrection. Fortunately for us all, the rumor of such an outbreak was without substantial foundation. Assuming, as your excellency does, in your despatch, that I was carrying on military operations in an enemy's country, when a war *à l'outrance* was to be waged, my act might be a matter of discussion. And in that view, acting in the light of the Baltimore murders, and the apparent hostile position of Maryland, your excellency might, without mature reflection, have come to the conclusion of disapprobation expressed in your despatch. But the facts, especially as now aided by their results, will entirely justify my act, and reinstate me in your excellency's good opinion.

"True, I landed on the soil of Maryland against the formal protest of its governor, and of the corporate authorities of Annapolis, but without any armed opposition on their part, and expecting opposition only from insurgents assembled in riotous contempt of the laws of the State. Before, by letter, and at the time of landing, by personal interview, I had informed Governor Hicks that soldiers of the Union, under my command, were armed only against the insurgents and disturbers of the peace of Maryland and of the United States. I received from Governor Hicks assurances of the loyalty of the State to the Union—assurances which subsequent events have fully justified. The mayor of Annapolis also informed me that the city authorities would in no wise oppose me, but that I was in great danger from the excited and riotous mobs of Baltimore pouring down upon me, and in numbers beyond the control of the police. I assured both the governor and the mayor that I had no fear of a Baltimore or other mob, and that, supported by the authorities of the State and city, I should repress all hostile demonstrations against the laws of Maryland and the United States, and that I would protect both myself and the city of Annapolis from

any disorderly persons whatsoever. On the morning following my landing I was informed that the city of Annapolis and environs were in danger from an insurrection of the slave population, in defiance of the laws of the State. What was I to do? I had promised to put down a white mob, and to preserve and enforce the laws against that. Ought I to allow a black one any preference in a breach of the laws? I understood that I was armed against all infractions of the laws, whether by white or black, and upon that understanding I acted, certainly with promptness and efficiency. And your excellency's shadow of disapprobation, arising from a misunderstanding of the facts, has caused all the regret I have for that action. The question seemed to me to be neither military nor political, and was not to be so treated. It was simply a question of good faith and honesty of purpose. The benign effect of my course was instantly seen. The good but timid people of Annapolis who had fled from their houses at our approach, immediately returned; business resumed its accustomed channels; quiet and order prevailed in the city; confidence took the place of distrust, friendship of enmity, brotherly kindness of sectional hate, and I believe to-day there is no city in the Union more loyal than the city of Annapolis. I think, therefore, I may safely point to the results for my justification. The vote of the neighboring county of Washington, a few days since, for its delegate to the legislature, wherein 4000 out of 5000 votes were thrown for a delegate favorable to the Union, is among the many happy fruits of firmness of purpose, efficiency of action, and integrity of mission. I believe, indeed, that it will not require a personal interchange of views, as suggested in your despatch, to bring our minds in accordance; a simple statement of the facts will suffice.

"But I am to act hereafter, it may be, in an enemy's country, among a servile population, when the question may arise, as it has not yet arisen, as well in a moral and Christian, as in a political and military point of view. What shall I do? Will your excellency bear with me a moment while this question is discussed?

"I appreciate fully your excellency's suggestion as to the inherent weakness of the rebels, arising from the preponderance of their servile population. The question, then, is, In what manner shall we take advantage of that weakness? By allowing, and, of course, arming, that population to rise upon the defenceless women and children of the country, carrying rapine, arson, and murder—all the horrors of San Domingo, a million times magnified—among those whom we hope to reunite with us as brethren, many of whom are already so, and all who are worth preserving, will be, when this horrible madness shall have passed away or be thrashed out of them? Would your excellency advise the troops under my command to make war in person upon the defenceless women and children of any part of the Union,

accompanied with brutalities too horrible to be named? You will say, 'God forbid!' If we may not do so in person, shall we arm others so to do, over whom we can have no restraint, exercise no control, and who, when once they have tasted blood, may turn the very arms we put in their hands against ourselves, as a part of the oppressing white race? The reading of history so familiar to your excellency, will tell you the bitterest cause of complaint which our fathers had against Great Britain in the war of the Revolution, was the arming by the British ministry of the red man with the tomahawk and the scalping-knife against the women and children of the colonies, so that the phrase, 'May we not use all the means which God and nature have put in our power to subjugate the colonies?' has passed into a legend of infamy against the leader of that ministry who used it in parliament. Shall history teach us in vain? Could we justify ourselves to ourselves, although with arms in our hands, amid the savage wildness of camp and field, we may have blunted many of the finer moral sensibilities, in letting loose four millions of worse than savages upon the homes and hearths of the South? Can we be justified to the Christian community of Massachusetts? Would such a course be consonant with the teachings of our holy religion? I have a very decided opinion upon the subject, and if any one desires, as I know your excellency does not, this unhappy contest to be prosecuted in that manner, some instrument other than myself must be found to carry it on. I may not discuss the political bearings of this topic. When I went from under the shadow of my roof-tree, I left all politics behind me, to be resumed only when every part of the Union is loyal to the flag, and the potency of the government through the ballot-box is established.

"Passing the moral and Christian view, let us examine the subject as a military question. Is not that State already subjugated which requires the bayonets of those armed in opposition to its rulers, to preserve it from the horrors of a servile war? As the least experienced of military men, I would have no doubt of the entire subjugation of a State brought to that condition. When, therefore—unless I am better advised—any community in the United States, who have met me in honorable warfare, or even in the prosecution of a rebellious war in an honorable manner, shall call upon me for protection against the nameless horrors of a servile insurrection, they shall have it, and from the moment that call is obeyed, I have no doubt we shall be friends and not enemies.

"The possibility that dishonorable means of defence are to be taken by the rebels against the government, I do not now contemplate. If, as has been done in a single instance, my men are to be attacked by poison, or as in another, stricken down by the assassin's knife, and thus murdered, the community using such weapons may be required to be taught that it holds within

its own border a more potent means for deadly purposes and indiscriminate slaughter than any which it can administer to us.

"Trusting that these views may meet your excellency's approval, I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"BENJ. F. BUTLER."

HOW HE WANTED TO DEFEND WASHINGTON.

About the first of May General Butler visited Washington and suggested to General Scott the importance of defending Washington, not by building defences on the south bank of the Potomac, but by sending a force to Manassas on the Orange and Alexandria railroad, and offered to go thither himself with two full regiments and fortify the place. The offer was rejected, and the Committee on the Conduct of the War afterwards pronounced it the great error of the campaign. Although disappointed in his Manassas design, he obtained consent to occupy the Relay House, nine miles from Baltimore, and at the junction of the Baltimore and Washington, and Baltimore and Ohio railroads, and at daylight on the fifth of May he left Annapolis with two regiments and a battery, and after a two hours ride arrived at the Relay House and planted his batteries so as to command the two lines of railway.

On the eighth, General Butler issued the following order:

"HEAD-QUARTERS, RELAY HOUSE, *May 8, 1861.*

"The General in command congratulates the troops upon the promptness with which they have moved and occupied their present position, which he believes to be impregnable against any force which may be brought against it. The position of Major Cooke's battery commanding the viaduct, with his section in position commanding the railroad to Harper's Ferry, supported by the strong detachment of Colonel Jones' regiment at the Relay House, renders all movements by the railroad entirely within our command. The same guns command with grape and canister the ford below the iron works, while the extended pickets of Colonel Lyons fully protect the rear.

"The General has been thus particular in describing his position, so that each portion of the force might know how to con

duct in case of an attack which it only requires vigilance to foil. The General takes this opportunity publicly as he has done privately to thank Lieutenants Fox and Shiley, of the Eighth regiment, for their coolness, promptitude, and zeal in arresting one Spencer, who was uttering in the presence of the troops at the Relay House the atrocious sentiment that—'We [meaning himself and brother rebels] acted rightly toward the Massachusetts troops three weeks ago Friday.' And saying 'that the murderous mob who killed our friends there, were right in their action; and that the same men were preparing to give us a warm reception on our return.' For these treasonable speeches substantially admitted by him in his written examination, Spencer has been arrested and sent to Annapolis, where he will be properly dealt with.

"Two incidents of the gravest character marked the progress of yesterday. Charles Leonard, private of Company G, Eighth Regiment, of New York, was accidentally killed instantaneously by the discharge of a musket, from which he was drawing the charge. He was buried with all the honors, amidst the gloom and sorrow of every United States soldier at this post, and the tender sympathies of many of the loyal inhabitants in our neighborhood.

"It is fitting that we pause here, even in the discharge of our present solemn duties, to drop a tear upon the grave of a fellow-soldier, a friend and brother. A pure patriot, he gave up home for his country; a heroic, conscientious soldier, he died in the act of discharging his duty; and, although he was not stricken by the hand of death amid the clangor of arms, and in the heat of contest, yet his death was no less glorious because he met it in the quiet performance of his military duty. As a citizen he took up arms at his country's call; as a private soldier he sought only to fight in her ranks, and he met his death in support of that flag which we all revere and love. The first offering of New York of the life of one of her sons upon the country's altar, his blood mingling on the soil of Maryland with that of the Massachusetts men murdered at Baltimore, will form a new bond of union between us and all loyal States; so that, without need of further incentive to our duty, we are spurred on by the example of the life and death of Leonard.

"The other matter to which the General desires to call the attention of the troops is this: Wishing to establish the most friendly relations between you and this neighborhood, the General invited all venders of supplies to visit our camp and replenish our somewhat scanty commissariat. But to his disgust and horror he finds well-authenticated evidence that a private in the Sixth regiment has been poisoned by means of strychnine administered in the food brought into the camp by one of these pedlers. I am happy to be informed that the man is now out of danger. This act, of course, will render it necessary for me to cut off all purchases from unauthorized persons.

"Are our few insane enemies among the loyal men of Maryland prepared to wage war upon us in this manner? Do they know the terrible lesson of warfare they are teaching us? Can it be that they realize the fact that we can put an agent with a word into every household armed with this terrible weapon? In view of the terrible consequences of this mode of warfare, if adopted by us from their teaching, with every sentiment of devotional prayer, may we not exclaim, 'Father, forgive them, they know not what they do!'

"Certain it is that any other such attempt, reasonably authenticated as to the person committing it, will be followed by the swiftest, surest, and most condign punishment.

"Colonels Lyons, Jones, and Major Oooke are charged with the execution of this order so far as relates to their several commands, and they will promulgate the same by causing it to be read distinctly at the head of each company at morning roll call.

"By order of BENJ. F. BUTLER, *Brig-Gen. Commanding.*

"EDWARD G. PARKER,

"Lieut. Col., Aide-de-Camp."

THE OCCUPATION OF BALTIMORE.

On the thirteenth of May he received, or rather from the tenor of the despatch from one of General Scott's staff believed he received, permission to go to Baltimore, and on the afternoon of that day placed on board a train of cars the Sixth Massachusetts, a portion of the Eighth New York and two pieces of artillery. Rebel spies, however, were watching the movements, and a *ruse* was necessary. A short train was also made ready, and fifty men having taken their position in the cars, the two trains moved towards Harper's Ferry, but when the second mile-post had been passed, the smaller one continued on its supposed dangerous trip to Frederick, from thence to bring back under guard Ross Winans, while the other returned to the Relay House, and from there backed rapidly to Baltimore. The men alighted about eight o'clock P.M., in the midst of a terrific rain-storm, and marched through the principal streets to Federal Hill, a high eminence extending into the harbor and commanding the entire city. On the follow-

ing morning he published in one of the daily newspapers the following Proclamation :

PROCLAMATION

“DEPARTMENT OF ANNAPOLIS,

“FEDERAL HILL, BALTIMORE, *May 14, 1861.*

“A detachment of the forces of the Federal government, under my command, have occupied the city of Baltimore for the purpose, among other things, of enforcing respect and obedience to the laws, as well of the State, if requested thereto by the civil authorities, as of the United States laws, which are being violated within its limits by some malignant and traitorous men; and in order to testify the acceptance by the Federal government, of the fact that the city and all the well-intentioned portion of its inhabitants are loyal to the Union and the Constitution, and are to be so regarded and treated by all. To the end, therefore, that all misunderstanding of the purpose of the government may be prevented, and to set at rest all unfounded, false, and seditious rumors; to relieve all apprehensions, if any are felt, by the well-disposed portion of the community, and to make it thoroughly understood by all traitors, their aiders and abettors, that rebellious acts must cease; I hereby, by the authority vested in me, as commander of the department of Annapolis, of which Baltimore forms a part, do now command and make known that no loyal and well-disposed citizen will be disturbed in his lawful occupation or business; that private property will not be interfered with by the men under my command, or allowed to be interfered with by others, except in so far as it may be used to afford aid and comfort to those in rebellion against the government whether here or elsewhere, all of which property, munitions of war, and that fitted to aid and support the rebellion, will be seized and held subject to confiscation, and, therefore, all manufacturers of arms and munitions of war are hereby requested to report to me forthwith, so that the lawfulness of their occupation may be known and understood, and all misconstruction of their doings may be avoided. No transportation from the city to the rebels of articles fitted to aid and support troops in the field will be permitted; and the fact of such transportation, after the publication of this proclamation, will be taken and received as proof of illegal intention on the part of the consignors, and will render the goods liable to seizure and confiscation.

“The government being now ready to receive all such stores and supplies, arrangements will be made to contract for them immediately to the owners; and manufacturers of such articles of equipment and clothing, and munitions of war and provisions, are desired to keep themselves in communication with the

commissary-general, in order that their workshops may be employed for loyal purposes, and the artisans of the city resume and carry on their profitable occupations.

"The acting assistant-quartermaster and commissary of subsistence of the United States here stationed, has been instructed to procure and furnish, at fair prices, 40,000 rations for the use of the army of the United States; and further supplies will be drawn from the city to the full extent of its capacity, if the patriotic and loyal men choose so to furnish supplies.

"All assemblages, except the ordinary police, of armed bodies of men, other than those regularly organized and commissioned by the State of Maryland, and acting under the orders of the governor thereof, for drill and other purposes, are forbidden within the department.

"All officers of the militia of Maryland, having command within the limits of the department, are requested to report through their officers forthwith to the general in command, so that he may be able to know and distinguish the regularly commissioned and loyal troops of Maryland, from armed bodies who may claim to be such.

"The ordinary operations of the corporate government of the city of Baltimore, and of the civil authorities, will not be interfered with; but on the contrary, will be aided by all the power of the commanding general, upon proper call being made; and all such authorities are cordially invited to co-operate with the general in command, to carry out the purposes set forth in the proclamation, so that the city of Baltimore may be shown to the country to be what she is in fact, patriotic and loyal to the Union, the Constitution, and the laws.

"No flag, banner, ensign or device of the so-called Confederate States, or any of them, will be permitted to be raised or shown in this department; and the exhibition of either of them by evil-disposed persons will be deemed, and taken to be, evidence of a design to afford aid and comfort to the enemies of the country. To make it the more apparent that the government of the United States far more relies upon the loyalty, patriotism, and zeal of the good citizens of Baltimore and vicinity, than upon any exhibition of force calculated to intimidate them into that obedience to the laws which the government doubts not will be paid from inherent respect and love of order, the commanding general has brought to the city with him, of the many thousand troops in the immediate neighborhood, which might be at once concentrated here, scarcely more than an ordinary guard; and until it fails him, he will continue to rely upon that loyalty and patriotism of the citizens of Maryland, which have never yet been found wanting to the government in time of need. The general in command desires to greet and treat in this part of his department all the citizens thereof as friends and brothers, having a common purpose, a common

loyalty, and a common country. Any infractions of the laws by the troops under his command, or any disorderly, unsoldier-like conduct, or any interference with private property, he desires to have immediately reported to him, and pledges himself that if any soldier so far forgets himself as to break those laws that he has sworn to defend and enforce, he shall be most rigorously punished.

"The general believes that if the suggestions and requests contained in this proclamation are faithfully carried out by the co-operation of all good and Union-loving citizens, and peace, and quiet, and certainty of future peace and quiet are thus restored, business will resume its accustomed channels, trade take the place of dullness and inactivity, efficient labor displace idleness, and Baltimore will be, in fact, what she is entitled to be—in the front rank of the commercial cities of the nation.

"Given at Baltimore the day and year herein first above written.

"BENJ. F. BUTLER,
"Brigadier-General Commanding
"Department of Annapolis."

The traitors in Baltimore saw by the wording of the Proclamation that, if they attempted to interfere with its provisions, they had no common man to deal with, and although General Butler and his staff dined on the day after the occupation in a hotel in one of the principal streets, and the soldiers walked as their pleasure dictated through the highways and byways, no disorder was manifested. The Stars and Stripes floated from numerous public buildings and private houses, and save the presence of armed men, the bristling cannon on Federal Hill, and the not unfrequent seizure of arms and supplies destined for the enemy, there was nothing to denote the true condition of affairs.

HE IS RELIEVED FROM COMMAND.

His satisfactory rule, however, was to be of short duration. The despatch authorizing him to go to Baltimore had not been shown by the staff-officer to General Scott, and that commander notified General Butler that the "hazardous occupation" had been made without his knowledge and approbation, and that it was a God-send that it

was without conflict of arms. The result was that General Butler was relieved of the command of the Department of Annapolis and ordered to Washington, where on the evening of his arrival he was serenaded and responded in a neat speech. After referring in his remarks to the patriotic course of Massachusetts in this and previous wars, he continued :

"Many things in a man's life may be worse than death. So, to a government there may be many things, such as dishonor and disintegration, worse than the shedding of blood. [Cheers.] Our fathers purchased our liberty and country for us at an immense cost of treasure and blood, and by the bright heavens above us, we will not part with them without first paying the original debt and the interest to this date! [Loud cheers.] We have in our veins the same blood as they shed; we have the same power of endurance, the same love of liberty and law. We will hold as a brother him who stands by the Union; we will hold as an enemy him who would strike from its constellation a single star. [Applause.] But, I hear some one say, 'Shall we carry on this fratricidal war? Shall we shed our brothers' blood, and meet in arms our brothers in the South?' I would say, 'As our fathers did not hesitate to strike the mother country in the defence of our rights, so we should not hesitate to meet the brother as they did the mother.' If this unholy, this fratricidal war, is forced upon us, I say, 'Woe, woe to them who have made the necessity.' Our hands are clean, our hearts are pure; but the Union must be preserved [intense cheering. When silence was restored, he continued] at all hazard of money, and, if need be, of every life this side of the arctic regions. [Cheers.] If the 25,000 northern soldiers who are here are cut off, in six weeks 50,000 will take their place; and if they die by fever, pestilence, or the sword, a quarter of a million will take their place, till our army of the reserve will be women with their broomsticks, to drive every enemy into the gulf. [Cheers and laughter.] I have neither fear nor doubt of the issue. I feel only horror and dismay for those who have made the war. God help them! we are here for our rights, for our country, for our flag. Our faces are set south, and there shall be no footstep backward. [Immense applause.] He is mistaken who supposes we can be intimidated by threats or cajoled by compromise. The day of compromise is past.

"The government must be sustained [cheers]; and when it is sustained, we shall give everybody in the Union their rights under the Constitution, as we always have, and everybody outside of the Union the steel of the Union, till they shall come under the Union."

HE IS APPOINTED MAJOR-GENERAL AND ORDERED TO FORTRESS MONROE.

Although removed from Baltimore at the moment of his greatest usefulness, he was not destined to remain long idle, and on the sixteenth of May, he was honored with the appointment of Major-General of Volunteers, and ordered to take command at Fortress Monroe. He was informed that nine regiments would soon arrive at that point, which, as the fortress was then well garrisoned, should be encamped outside of and near the fortification. Fifteen hundred men within the fort were considered adequate to resist any attack that might be made by the enemy, and the remainder of the force was to be used for aggressive purposes. The following objects were particularly referred to :

“ 1st. Not to let the enemy erect batteries to annoy Fortress Monroe; 2d. To capture any batteries the enemy may have within a half day's march of you, and which may be reached by land; 3d. The same in respect to the enemy's batteries, at or about Craney Island, though requiring water craft; and 4th. To menace and to recapture the navy yard at Gosport, in order to complete its destruction, with its contents, except what it may be practicable to bring away in safety.”

He assumed command on the twenty-second of May, and immediately commenced preparing for an energetic administration of affairs on the Peninsula, hemmed in as it was on the land side by rebel pickets and their supports, while from the opposite shore the traitors' flags waved defiance, and their stolen pieces of artillery threatened destruction to our transports and their living cargoes. On the twenty-third, General Butler determined to make a reconnoissance towards Hampton, then a beautiful town, the birthplace of many of the most aristocratic of Virginia's chivalry, and a favorite summer resort. Colonel Phelps' regiment of Vermonters was detailed to accompany him, and as they marched towards the

bridge across Hampton creek, the enemy attempted to frustrate the movement by firing the structure. The Vermont men, however, took the "double-quick," and reaching the bridge, extinguished the flame and dispersed their opponents. A site for an encampment was selected between the village and the fortress, and the next day General Butler rode to Newport News, which he occupied and began fortifying, deeming it, from its position on James river, a most important point.

THE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY INAUGURATED —STAMPEDE OF CONTRABANDS.

On the twenty-fourth instant, an event occurred which, in its sequel, gave the Southern people for the first time to understand that the abolition of slavery was to be one of the grand results of their treason. Three slaves, the property of Colonel Mallory, commander of the rebel forces near Hampton, came into our lines seeking protection, and asserting that their master was about sending them to North Carolina to work on the fortifications. General Butler declared them "contraband of war," and set them at work. The next afternoon a Major Carey of the Virginia service requested an interview, and upon General Butler acceding to the request a conversation of no little interest ensued. Major Carey desiring to know if a passage through the blockading fleet would be allowed the families of citizens of Virginia, who might desire to go to a place of safety, the General replied that he was under the necessity of refusing the privilege, as the presence of the families of belligerents is always the best hostage for their good behavior. Another reason was that one of the objects of the blockade was to prevent the admission of supplies, and reducing the number of consumers would necessarily thwart the object in view. Major Carey then continued: "I am informed that three

negroes, belonging to Colonel Mallory, have escaped within your lines. I am his agent and wish to know what you intend to do with them."

General Butler: "I propose to retain them."

Major Carey: "Do you intend to set aside your constitutional obligations?"

General Butler: "I mean to abide by the decision of Virginia, as expressed in her ordinance of secession, passed day before yesterday. I am under no constitutional obligations to a foreign country, which Virginia now claims to be. I shall detain the negroes as contraband of war. It is merely a question whether they shall be used for or against the government. Nevertheless, if Colonel Mallory will come into the fort and take the oath of allegiance to the United States, he shall have his negroes, and I will endeavor to hire them from him." This response terminated the interview.

The blessings of freedom thus given by this Massachusetts liberator to the three slaves or "contrabands," as they were from that day called, naturally induced others to seek the same boon, and day and night they came in, singly, by tens and by scores, until nearly a thousand of both sexes and all ages had been provided with quarters, and the older representatives of the barbarous institution made useful in various ways in and around the fortress. He wrote to General Scott asking what course he should pursue, as follows:

"Since I wrote my last," he said, "the question in regard to slave property is becoming one of very serious magnitude. The inhabitants of Virginia are using their negroes in the batteries, and are preparing to send their women and children south. The escapes from them are very numerous, and a squad has come in this morning, and my pickets are bringing their women and children. Of course these cannot be dealt with upon the theory on which I designed to treat the services of able-bodied men and women who might come within my lines, and of which I gave you a detailed account in my last despatch.

"I am in the utmost doubt what to do with this species of

property. Up to this time I have had come within my lines men and women, with their children, entire families, each family belonging to the same owner. I have, therefore, determined to employ, as I can do very profitably, the able-bodied persons in the party, issuing proper food for the support of all, and charging against their services the expenses of care and sustenance of the non-laborers, keeping a strict and accurate account as well of the services as of the expenditures, having the worth of the services, and the cost of the expenditures determined by a board of survey hereafter to be detailed. I know of no other manner in which to dispose of this subject, and the questions connected therewith. As a matter of property, to the insurgents it will be of very great moment, the number that I now have amounting, as I am informed, to what in good times would be of the value of \$60,000.

"Twelve of these negroes, I am informed, have escaped from the erection of the batteries on Sewall's Point, which fired on my expedition as it passed by out of range. As a means of offence, therefore, in the enemy's hands, these negroes, when able-bodied, are of great importance. Without them the batteries could not have been erected, at least for many weeks. As a military question, it would seem to be a measure of necessity, and deprives their master of their services.

"How can this be done? As a political question, and a question of humanity, can I receive the services of a father and a mother, and not take the children? Of the humanitarian aspect I have no doubt; of the political one I have no right to judge. I therefore submit all this to your better judgment; and, as these questions have a political aspect, I have ventured, and I trust I am not wrong in so doing, to duplicate the parts of my despatch relating to this subject, and forward them to the Secretary of War.

"Your obedient servant,

"BENJAMIN F. BUTLER."

The Secretary of War replied, May 30th: "Your action in respect to the negroes who came within your lines, from the service of the rebels, is approved. The department is sensible of the embarrassments which must surround officers conducting military operations in a State, by the laws of which slavery is sanctioned. The government cannot recognize the rejection by any State of its Federal obligation; resting upon itself, among these Federal obligations, however, no one can be more important than that of suppressing and dispersing any combination of the former for the purpose of overthrowing its whole constitutional authority. While, therefore, you will permit no interference, by persons under your command, with the relations of persons held to service under the laws of any State, you will on the other hand, so long as any State within which your military operations are conducted, remains under the control of

such armed combinations, refrain from surrendering to alleged masters any persons who come within your lines. You will employ such persons in the services to which they will be best adapted, keeping an account of the labor by them performed, of the value of it, and the expenses of their maintenance. The question of their final disposition will be reserved for future determination.

"SIMON CAMERON,
"Secretary of War."

The stampede from the Peninsular counties of Virginia necessarily caused a great commotion among the white population, and every species of subterfuge was adopted to recover the lost property. Among other anecdotes related is the following: An elderly planter, who had owned about forty slaves, came to the fort on one occasion, and requesting that one of his negroes, who had escaped, might be returned, gave the following amusing account of the exodus:

"I have always treated my negroes kindly. I supposed they loved me. Last Sunday, I went to church. When I returned from church, and entered into my house, I called Mary to take off my coat and hang it up. But Mary did not come. And again I called Mary in a louder voice, but I received no answer. Then I went into the room to find Mary, but I found her not. There was no one in the room. I went into the kitchen. There was no one in the kitchen. I went into the garden. There was no one in the garden. I went to the negro quarters. There was no one at the negro quarters. All my negroes had departed, sir, while I was at the house of God. Then I went back again into my house. And soon there came to me James, who has been my body-servant for many years. And I said to James:

"James, what has happened?"

"And James said, 'All the people have gone to the fort.'

"While I was gone to the house of God, James?"

"And James said, 'Yes, master; they're all gone.'

"And I said to James, 'Why didn't you go too, James?'

"And James said, 'Master, I'll never leave you.'

"Well, James,' said I, 'as there's nobody to cook, see if you can get me some cold victuals and some whisky.'

"So James got me some cold victuals, and I ate them with a heavy heart. And when I had eaten, I said to James:

"James, it is of no use for us to stay here. Let us go to your mistress."

"His mistress, sir, had gone away from her home, eleven miles, fleeing from the dangers of the war.

"And, so, James,' said I, 'harness the best horse to the cart,

and put into the cart our best bed, and some bacon, and some corn meal, and James, some whisky, and we will go unto your mistress.'

"And James did even as I told him, and some few necessities besides. And we started. It was a heavy load for the horse. I trudged along on foot, and James led the horse. It was late at night, sir, when we arrived, and I said to James :

" 'James, it is of no use to unload the cart to-night. Put the horse into the barn, and unload the cart in the morning.'

"And James said, 'Yes, master.'

"I met my wife, sir; I embraced her, and went to bed; and, notwithstanding my troubles, I slept soundly. The next morning, *James was gone!* Then I came here, and the first thing I saw, when I got here, was James peddling cabbages to your men out of that very cart."

General Butler made an early effort to place Newport News in a defensive and offensive condition, because he believed the batteries there would be a perpetual menace to the rebel capital. He then proposed attacking and taking the rebel works at Pig Point, commanding the Nansemond river, and then proceeding up the Nansemond and occupying Suffolk, destroy the railroads leading from Norfolk to Richmond and to the South. Norfolk hemmed in, would thus be compelled to succumb. His proposition was submitted to the General-in-Chief, with the request that full and explicit instructions might be sent him; but while a portion of his plans were acquiesced in, there were unfortunately no vessels to co-operate with him, and neither at that time nor for some weeks thereafter any horses except nine which General Butler had brought from his own private stable at Lowell, to temporarily relieve the pressing wants of the service.

THE DISASTER AT GREAT BETHEL.

On the tenth of June, 1861, the unfortunate affair at Great Bethel took place—a disaster which horrified the people of the loyal States and which lost to the country two of its most gallant officers, the brave young Greble of Philadelphia and the lamented Winthrop of Massachu-

setts. Our limited space will not permit us to give the details of the fight, but the following official report of General Butler contains the main facts :

GENERAL BUTLER'S OFFICIAL REPORT.

"HEAD-QUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA,

"FORTRESS MONROE, *June 10, 1861.*

"TO LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SCOTT :

"GENERAL :—Having learned that the enemy had established an outpost of some strength at a place called Little Bethel, a small church about eight miles from Newport News, and the same distance from Hampton, from whence they were accustomed nightly to advance both on Newport News and the picket guards of Hampton to annoy them, and from whence also they had come down in small squads of cavalry and taken a number of Union men, some of whom had the safeguard and protection of the troops of the United States, and forced them into the rebel ranks, and that they were also gathering up the slaves of citizens who had moved away and left their farms in charge of their negroes, carrying them to work in intrenchments at Williamsburg and Yorktown, I had determined to send up a force to drive them back and destroy their camp, the head-quarters of which was this small church. I had also learned that at a place a short distance further on, on the road to Yorktown, was an outwork of the rebels, on the Hampton side of a place called Big Bethel, a large church, near the head of the north branch of Back river, and that there was a very considerable rendezvous, with works of more or less strength in process of erection, and from this point the whole country was laid under contribution.

"Accordingly, I ordered General Pierce, who is in command of Camp Hamilton, at Hampton, to send Duryea's regiment of Zouaves to be ferried over Hampton creek at one o'clock this morning, and to march by the road up to Newmarket Bridge, then crossing the bridge, to go by a by-road and thus put the regiment in the rear of the enemy, and between Big Bethel and Little Bethel, in part for the purpose of cutting him off, and then to make an attack upon Little Bethel. I directed General Pierce to support him from Hampton with Colonel Townsend's regiment, with two mounted howitzers, and to march about an hour later. At the same time I directed Col. Phelps, commanding at Newport News, to send out a battalion, composed of such companies of the regiments under his command as he thought best, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel Washburn, in time to make a demonstration upon Little Bethel in front, and to have him supported by Colonel Bendix's regiment, with two field-pieces.

“Bendix’s and Townsend’s regiments should effect a junction at a fork of the road leading from Hampton to Newport News, something like a mile and a half from Little Bethel. I directed the march to be so timed that the attack should be made just at daybreak, and that after the attack was made upon Little Bethel, Duryea’s regiment and a regiment from Newport News should follow immediately upon the heels of the fugitives, if they were enabled to cut them off, and attack the battery on the road to Big Bethel, while covered by the fugitives; or, if it was thought expedient by General Pierce, failing to surprise the camp at Little Bethel, they should attempt to take the work near Big Bethel.

“To prevent the possibility of mistake in the darkness, I directed that no attack should be made until the watchword should be shouted by the attacking regiment, and, in case that by any mistake in the march the regiments that were to make the junction should unexpectedly meet and be unknown to each other, also directed that the members of Colonel Townsend’s regiment should be known, if in daylight, by something white worn on the arm. The troops were accordingly put in action as ordered, and the march was so timed that Colonel Duryea had got in the position noted upon the accompanying sketch, and Lieutenant-Colonel Washburn, in command of the regiment from Newport News, had got into the position indicated upon the sketch, and Colonel Bendix’s regiment had been posted and ordered to hold the fork of the road, with two pieces of artillery, and Colonel Townsend’s regiment had got to the place indicated just behind, and were about to form a junction as the day dawned.

“Up to this point the plan had been vigorously, accurately, and successfully carried out; but here, by some strange fatuity, and as yet unexplained blunder, without any word of notice, while Colonel Townsend was in column *en route*, and when the head of the column was within one hundred yards, Col. Bendix’s regiment opened fire with both artillery and musketry upon Col. Townsend’s column, which, in the hurry and confusion, was irregularly returned by some of Col. Townsend’s men, who feared that they had fallen into an ambuscade. Col. Townsend’s column immediately retreated to the eminence near by, and were not pursued by Col. Bendix’s men. By this almost criminal blunder two men of Col. Townsend’s regiment were killed, and eight more or less wounded.

“Hearing this canonnading and firing in his rear, Lieutenant-Colonel Washburn, not knowing but that his communication might be cut off, immediately reversed his march, as did Col. Duryea, and marched back to form a junction with his reserves.

“General Pierce, who was with Colone Townsend’s regiment, fearing that the enemy had got notice of our approach, and had posted himself in force on the line of march, and not getting

any communication from Col. Duryea, sent back to me for reinforcements, and I immediately ordered Col. Allen's regiment to be put in motion, and they reached Hampton about seven o'clock. In the meantime the true state of facts having been ascertained by General Pierce, the regiments effected a junction, and resumed the line of march. At the moment of the firing of Colonel Bendix, Colonel Duryea had surprised a part of an outlying guard of the enemy, consisting of thirty persons, who have been brought in to me.

"Of course by this firing all hope of a surprise above the camp at Little Bethel was lost, and, upon marching upon it, it was found to have been vacated, and the cavalry had pressed on toward Big Bethel. Col. Duryea, however, destroyed the camp at Little Bethel, and advanced. General Pierce, then, as he informs me, with the advice of his colonels, thought best to attempt to carry the works of the enemy at Big Bethel, and made dispositions to that effect. The attack commenced, as I am informed—for I have not yet received any official reports—about half-past nine o'clock.

"At about ten o'clock General Pierce sent a note to me saying that there was a sharp engagement with the enemy, and that he thought he should be able to maintain his position until reinforcements could come up. Acting upon this information, Colonel Carr's regiment, which had been ordered in the morning to proceed as far as Newmarket Bridge, was allowed to go forward. I received this information, for which I had sent a special messenger, about twelve o'clock. I immediately made disposition from Newport News to have Colonel Phelps, from the four regiments there, forward aid if necessary. As soon as these orders could be sent forward I repaired to Hampton, for the purpose of having proper ambulances and wagons for the sick and wounded, intending to go forward and join the command. While the wagons were going forward a messenger came, announcing that the engagement had terminated, and that the troops were retiring in good order to camp.

"I remained upon the ground at Hampton, personally seeing the wounded put in boats and towed round to the hospital, and ordered forward Lieutenant Morris, with two boat howitzers, to cover the rear of the returning column in case it should be attacked. Having been informed that the ammunition of the artillery had been expended, and seeing the head of the column approach Hampton in good order, I waited for General Pierce to come up. I am informed by him that the dead and wounded had all been brought off, and that the return had been conducted in good order, and without haste. I learned from him that the men behaved with great steadiness, with the exception of some few instances, and that the attack was made with propriety, vigor, and courage; but that the enemy were found to be supported by a battery, variously estimated as of from fifteen to

twenty pieces, some of which were rifled cannon, which were very well served, and protected from being readily turned by a creek in front.

"Our loss is very considerable, amounting perhaps to forty or fifty, a quarter part of which you will see was from the unfortunate mistake—to call it by no worse name—of Colonel Bendix.

"I will, as soon as official returns can be got, give a fuller detail of the affair, and will only add now that we have to regret especially the death of Lieutenant Greble, of the Second Artillery, who went out with Colonel Washburn from Newport News, and who very efficiently and gallantly fought his piece until he was struck by a cannon-shot. I will endeavor to get accurate statements to forward by the next mail.

"I think, in the unfortunate combination of circumstances, and the result which we have experienced, we have gained more than we have lost. Our troops have learned to have confidence in themselves under fire, the enemy have shown that they will not meet us in the open field, and our officers have learned wherein their organization and drill are inefficient.

"While waiting for the official reports, I have the honor to submit thus far the information of which I am possessed.

"I have the honor to be, most respectfully,

"Your obedient servant,

"BENJ. F. BUTLER,

"Major-General Commanding."

Two days later General Butler had an interesting correspondence with Colonel, now General, J. Bankhead Magruder, in reference to the exchange of a soldier in our possession, which terminated in a satisfactory exchange being effected. On the twenty-sixth of the same month he addressed a letter to the Secretary of War, suggesting for the benefit of the service that a commission should be appointed to investigate the capabilities of the different officers for command.

HIS ANTI-LIQUOR REGULATIONS.

During General Butler's term at the fortress he strictly prohibited the plundering of abandoned houses, and was equally hostile to indulgence in spirituous liquors.

At one time a sutler's book came into his possession in which were entered numerous liquor accounts of officers.

He had taken measures to prevent its use among the men, but had presumed that officers might be trusted. Finding, however, that his confidence had been misplaced, he issued a special order turning over all the spirits to the Medical Department, prohibiting its sale or use except as a medicine, and concluding as follows :

"The general commanding does not desire to conceal the fact that he has been accustomed to the use of wine and liquors in his own quarters, and to furnish them to his friends ; but as he desires never to ask either officers or men to undergo any privation which he will not share with them, he will not exempt himself from the operation of this order, but will not use it in his own quarters, as he would discourage its use in the quarters of any other officer. Amid the many sacrifices of time, property, health and life, which the officers and soldiers of his command are making in the service of their country, the general commanding feels confident that this, so slight, but so necessary a sacrifice of a luxury, and pandering to appetite, will be borne most cheerfully, now that its evil is seen and appreciated."

On the twenty-sixth of July, General Butler was startled from his usual composure by an order of the Government, the purport of which will be seen from the following correspondence :

GENERAL BUTLER TO SIMON CAMERON.

"HEAD-QUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA,
"FORTRESS MONROE, July 30, 1861.

"HON. SIMON CAMERON, *Secretary of War* :

"SIR :—By an order received on the morning of the 26th July from Major-General Dix, by a telegraphic order from Lieutenant-General Scott, I was commanded to forward, of the troops of this department, four regiments and a half, including Colonel Baker's California regiment, to Washington, *via* Baltimore. This order reached me at 2 o'clock A.M., by special boat from Baltimore. Believing that it emanated because of some pressing exigency for the defence of Washington, I issued my orders before daybreak for the embarkation of the troops, sending those who were among the very best regiments I had. In the course of the following day they were all embarked for Baltimore, with the exception of some four hundred, for whom I had not transportation, although I had all the transport force in the hands of the quartermaster here to aid the bay line of steamers, which, by the same order from the lieutenant-general,

was directed to furnish transportation. Up to, and at the time of the order, I had been preparing for an advance movement, by which I hoped to cripple the resources of the enemy at Yorktown, and especially by seizing a large quantity of negroes who were being pressed into their service in building the intrenchments there. I had five days previously been enabled to mount, for the first time, the first company of light artillery, which I had been empowered to raise, and they had but a single rifled cannon, an iron six-pounder. Of course, every thing must and did yield to the supposed exigency and the orders. This ordering away the troops from this department, while it weakened the posts at Newport News, necessitated the withdrawal of the troops from Hampton, where I was then throwing up intrenched works to enable me to hold the town with a small force, while I advanced up the York or James river. In the village of Hampton there was a large number of negroes, composed in a great measure of women and children of the men who had fled thither within my lines for protection, who had escaped from marauding parties of rebels who had been gathering up able-bodied blacks to aid them in constructing their batteries on the James and York rivers. I had employed the men in Hampton in throwing up intrenchments, and they were working zealously and efficiently at that duty, saving our soldiers from that labor under the gleam of the mid-day sun. The women were earning substantially their own subsistence in washing, marketing, and taking care of the clothes of the soldiers, and rations were being served out to the men who worked for the support of the children. But by the evacuation of Hampton, rendered necessary by the withdrawal of troops, leaving me scarcely five thousand men outside the fort, including the force at Newport News, all these black people were obliged to break up their homes at Hampton, fleeing across the creek within my lines for protection and support. Indeed, it was a most distressing sight to see these poor creatures, who had trusted to the protection of the arms of the United States, and who aided the troops of the United States in their enterprise, to be thus obliged to flee from their homes, and the homes of their masters who had deserted them, and become fugitives from fear of the return of the rebel soldiery, who had threatened to shoot the men who had wrought for us, and to carry off the women who had served us, to a worse than Egyptian bondage. I have, therefore, now within the peninsula, this side of Hampton creek, nine hundred negroes, three hundred of whom are able-bodied men, thirty of whom are men substantially past hard labor, one hundred and seventy-five women, two hundred and twenty-five children under the age of ten years, and one hundred and seventy between ten and eighteen years, and many more coming in. The questions which this state of facts present are very embarrassing.

"*First.* What shall be done with them? and, *Second.* What is their state and condition?

"Upon these questions I desire the instructions of the department.

"The first question, however, may perhaps be answered by considering the last. Are these men, women, and children slaves? Are they free? Is their condition that of men, women, and children, or of property, or is it a mixed relation? What their *status* was under the constitution and laws, we all know. What has been the effect of a rebellion and a state of war upon that *status*? When I adopted the theory of treating the able-bodied negro fit to work in the trenches as property liable to be used in aid of rebellion, and so contraband of war, that condition of things was in so far met, as I then and still believe, on a legal and constitutional basis. But now a new series of questions arise. Passing by women, the children, certainly, cannot be treated on that basis; if property, they must be considered the incumbrance rather than the auxiliary of an army, and, of course, in no possible legal relation could be treated as contraband. Are they property? If they were so, they have been left by their masters and owners, deserted, thrown away, abandoned, like the wrecked vessel upon the ocean. Their former possessors and owners have causelessly, traitorously, rebelliously, and, to carry out the figure, practically abandoned them to be swallowed up by the winter storm of starvation. If property, do they not become the property of the salvors? But we, their salvors, do not need and will not hold such property, and will assume no such ownership: has not, therefore, all proprietary relation ceased? Have they not become, thereupon, men, women, and children? No longer under ownership of any kind, the fearful relicts of fugitive masters, have they not by their masters' acts, and the state of war, assumed the condition, which we hold to be the normal one, of those made in God's image? Is not every constitutional, legal, and moral requirement, as well to the runaway master as their relinquished slaves, thus answered? I confess that my own mind is compelled by this reasoning to look upon them as men and women. If not free-born, yet free, manumitted, sent forth from the hand that held them never to be reclaimed.

"Of course, if this reasoning, thus imperfectly set forth, is correct, my duty as a humane man is very plain. I should take the same care of these men, women, and children, houseless, homeless, and unprovided for, as I would of the same number of men, women, and children, who, for their attachment to the Union, had been driven or allowed to flee from the Confederate States. I should have no doubt on this question, had I not seen it stated that an order had been issued by General McDowell in his department, substantially forbidding all fugitive slaves from coming within his lines or being harbored there. Is

that order to be enforced in all military departments? If so, who are to be considered fugitive slaves? Is a slave to be considered fugitive whose master runs away and leaves him? Is it forbidden to the troops to aid or harbor within their lines the negro children who are found therein, or is the soldier, when his march has destroyed their means of subsistence, to allow them to starve because he has driven off the rebel masters? Now, shall the commander of a regiment or battalion sit in judgment upon the question, whether any given black man has fled from his master, or his master fled from him? Indeed, how are the free born to be distinguished? Is one any more or less a fugitive slave because he has labored upon the rebel intrenchments? If he has so labored, if I understand it, he is to be harbored. By the reception of which are the rebels most to be distressed, by taking those who have wrought all their rebel masters desired, masked their battery, or those who have refused to labor and left the battery unmasked?

"I have very decided opinions upon the subject of this order. It does not become me to criticise it, and I write in no spirit of criticism, but simply to explain the full difficulties that surround the enforcing it. If the enforcement of that order becomes the policy of the government, I, as a soldier, shall be bound to enforce it steadfastly, if not cheerfully: But if left to my own discretion, as you may have gathered from my reasoning, I should take a widely different course from that which it indicates.

"In a loyal State, I would put down a servile insurrection. In a state of rebellion I would confiscate that which was used to oppose my arms, and take all that property which constituted the wealth of that State, and furnished the means by which the war is prosecuted, beside being the cause of the war; and if, in so doing, it should be objected that human beings were brought to the free enjoyment of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, such objection might not require much consideration.

"Pardon me for addressing the Secretary of War directly upon this question, as it involves some political considerations as well as propriety of military action. I am, sir, your obedient servant,

"BENJAMIN F. BUTLER."

"SIMON CAMERON TO GENERAL BUTLER.

"WASHINGTON, *August 8, 1861.*

"GENERAL:—The important question of the proper disposition to be made of fugitives from service in the States in insurrection against the Federal government, to which you have again directed my attention, in your letter of July 30, has received my most attentive consideration. It is the desire of the President that all existing rights in all the States be fully respected and maintained. The war now prosecuted, on the part of the Federal

government, is a war for the Union, for the preservation of all the constitutional rights of the States and the citizens of the States of the Union; hence no question can arise as to fugitives from service within the States and territories in which the authority of the Union is fully acknowledged. The ordinary forms of judicial proceedings must be respected by the military and civil authorities alike for the enforcement of legal forms. But in the States wholly or in part under insurrectionary control, where the laws of the United States are so far opposed and resisted that they cannot be effectually enforced, it is obvious that the rights dependent upon the execution of these laws must temporarily fail; and it is equally obvious that the rights dependent on the laws of the States within which military operations are conducted must necessarily be subordinate to the military exigencies created by the insurrection, if not wholly forfeited by the treasonable conduct of the parties claiming them. To this the general rule of the right to service forms an exception. The Act of Congress approved August 6, 1861, declares if persons held to service shall be employed in hostility to the United States, the right to their services shall be discharged therefrom. It follows, of necessity, that no claim can be recognized by the military authority of the Union to the services of such persons when fugitives.

"A more difficult question is presented in respect to persons escaping from the service of loyal masters. It is quite apparent that the laws of the State under which only the services of such fugitives can be claimed must needs be wholly or almost wholly superseded, as to the remedies, by the insurrection and the military measures necessitated by it; and it is equally apparent that the substitution of military for judicial measures for the enforcement of such claims must be attended by great inconvenience, embarrassments, and injuries. Under these circumstances, it seems quite clear that the substantial rights of loyal masters are still best protected by receiving such fugitives, as well as fugitives from disloyal masters, into the service of the United States, and employing them under such organizations and in such occupations as circumstances may suggest or require. Of course a record should be kept showing the names and descriptions of the fugitives, the names and characters, as loyal or disloyal, of the masters, and such facts as may be necessary to a correct understanding of the circumstances of each case.

"After tranquillity shall have been restored upon the return of peace, Congress will doubtless properly provide for all the persons thus received into the service of the Union, and for a just compensation to loyal masters. In this way only, it would seem, can the duty and safety of the government and just rights of all be fully reconciled and harmonized. You will therefore consider yourself instructed to govern your future action in

respect to fugitives from service by the premises herein stated, and will report, from time to time, and at least twice in each month, your action in the premises to this department. You will, however, neither authorize nor permit any interference by the troops under your command with the servants of peaceable citizens in a house or field, nor will you in any manner encourage such servants to leave the lawful service of their masters, nor will you, except in cases where the public good may seem to require it, prevent the voluntary return of any fugitive to the service from which he may have escaped. I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SIMON CAMERON,
"Secretary of War."

THE HATTERAS EXPEDITION.

On the eighteenth of August he was relieved from the command of the Department by Major-General Wool, and on the twenty-first was placed in command of the volunteer forces in the Department, exclusive of those at Fortress Monroe, comprising the troops at Camps Butler and Hamilton. One week later he left Fortress Monroe in command of the military portion of a combined army and navy expedition destined to capture the forts at Hatteras Inlet, North Carolina—an expedition he had arranged some two months before his supersedure, and which he now desired to carry out by acting as one of its commanders. The success of the movement is a matter of history. On the afternoon of the day after leaving Hampton Roads, the last vessel of the fleet arrived off Hatteras Inlet. Immediate preparations were made for the attack, and General Butler from the deck of the Harriet Lane directed the disembarkation of the troops. After a short bombardment Flag-officer Barron, of the rebel navy, offered to surrender Fort Hatteras if the officers could retire with side-arms and the men without arms. General Butler refused the terms and said he would accept nothing but a full capitulation—the officers and men to be treated as prisoners of war; and soon afterwards Captain Barron acceded to the demand. General Butler then landed and took possession

of the forts, with all the men and munitions of war. In all, more than seven hundred men, twenty-five pieces of artillery, a thousand stand of arms, four stand of colors, and a large quantity of stores and supplies were captured. At the time that he refused to accept Captain Barron's terms his position was one of great danger.¹ He says, in his official report :

" I may mention in this connection that the Adelaide in carrying in the troops, at the moment that my terms of capitulation were under consideration by the enemy, had grounded on the bar, but by the active and judicious exertions of Commander Stellwagen, after some delay was got off.

" At the same time, the Harriet Lane, in attempting to enter the bar had grounded, and remained fast ; both were under the guns of the fort. By these accidents, a valuable ship of war, and a transport steamer, with a large portion of my troops, were within the power of the enemy. I had demanded the strongest terms, which he was considering. He might refuse, and seeing our disadvantage, renew the action. But I determined to abate not a tittle of what I considered to be due to the dignity of the government ; nor even to give an official title to the officer in command of the rebels. Besides, my tug was in the inlet, and, at least, I could carry on the engagement with my two rifled six-pounders, well supplied with Sawyer's shell."

Although his orders were to sink vessels there and abandon the place, he was so impressed with the importance of the position gained that he hastened to Washington to urge the Government to hold it. His return to Hatteras was unnecessary, and, with troops, owing to the exigencies of the service, impossible, and in the following month he received authority from the Secretary of War "to raise, organize, arm, uniform, and equip a volunteer force for the war, in the New England States, not exceeding six regiments of the maximum standard, of such arms, and in such proportions, and in such manner as he may judge expedient." While engaged in recruiting this force he became involved in an unfortunate quarrel with Governor Andrew, who did not wish any new regiments organized until those already started were filled.

**THE DEPARTMENT OF NEW ENGLAND—HIS
GULF EXPEDITION.**

An order constituting the New England States a separate Military Department, with General Butler as its commander, and an order from the Secretary of War giving half a month's pay in advance to the troops enlisted by General Butler, did not change the Governor's sentiments, but the six thousand men were raised. The delay, however, prevented him from using them for the purpose he first contemplated—driving the rebels from the Virginia peninsula—and he asked at Washington where he should take them. The Gulf of Mexico was named, and returning to New England, he made arrangements for their departure, and on the 23d of November the van of his expedition sailed for Ship Island under the command of General Phelps. General Butler's quarrel with the State government had, however, not been settled, and on the seventh of January, 1862, he found himself compelled to address a letter to the commander of one of the regiments promising to pay to the family of each soldier the sum which ought to be furnished by the town. A few days later Secretary Stanton asked him why New Orleans could not be taken. "It can," replied the brave officer, and he promised, with fifteen thousand men and with the co-operation of the navy, to capture the Crescent city and its defences. In the meantime, General Phelps had arrived at Ship Island, a low, narrow sand-spit in the Gulf of Mexico, and had issued a proclamation to the loyal citizens of the Southwest—a proclamation which was neither authorized nor suggested by General Butler, and which, from its peculiar anti-slavery tenets, occasioned considerable comment North and South. On the 23d of February, 1862, General Butler received orders assigning him to the command of the land forces destined to co-

operate with the navy in the attack upon New Orleans, and placing at his disposal a force of 15,255 men. The Commanding General of the Department of the West was authorized to loan him temporarily two regiments, and Fort Pickens another. The order then continues :

“The object of your expedition is one of vital importance—the capture of New Orleans. The route selected is up the Mississippi river, and the first obstacle to be encountered, perhaps the only one, is in the resistance offered by Forts St. Philip and Jackson. It is expected that the navy can reduce the works ; in that case, you will, after their capture, leave a sufficient garrison in them to render them perfectly secure ; and it is recommended that on the upward passage a few heavy guns and some troops be left at the pilot station, at the forks of the river, to cover a retreat in the case of a disaster, the troops and guns will of course be removed as soon as the forts are captured.

“Should the navy fail to reduce the works, you will land your forces and siege-train, and endeavor to breach the works, silence their fire, and carry them by assault

“The next resistance will be near the English Bend, where there are some earthen batteries ; here it may be necessary for you to land your troops, to co-operate with the naval attack, although it is more than probable that the navy, unassisted, can accomplish the result. If these works are taken, the city of New Orleans necessarily falls.

“In that event it will probably be best to occupy Algiers with the mass of your troops, also the eastern bank of the river above the city—it may be necessary to place some troops in the city to preserve order ; though if there appears sufficient Union sentiment to control the city, it may be best for purposes of discipline to keep your men out of the city.

“After obtaining possession of New Orleans, it will be necessary to reduce all the works guarding its approaches from the east, and particularly to gain the Manchac Pass.

“Baton Rouge, Berwick Bay, and Fort Livingston will next claim your attention.

“A feint on Galveston may facilitate the objects we have in view. I need not call your attention to the necessity of gaining possession of all the rolling-stock you can, on the different railways, and of obtaining control of the roads themselves. The occupation of Baton Rouge, by a combined naval and land force, should be accomplished as soon as possible after you have gained New Orleans ; then endeavor to open your communication with the northern column of the Mississippi, always bearing in mind the necessity of occupying Jackson, Mississippi, as soon as you can safely do so, either after or before you have effected the junction. Allow nothing to divert you from ob-

taining full possession of *all* the approaches to New Orleans. When that object is accomplished to its fullest extent, it will be necessary to make a combined attack on Mobile, in order to gain possession of the harbor and works, as well as to control the railway terminus at the city. In regard to this, I will send more detailed instructions, as the operations of the northern column develop themselves. I may simply state that the general objects of the expedition are *first*, the reduction of New Orleans and all its approaches, then Mobile, and all its defences, then Pensacola, Galveston, etc. It is probable that by the time New Orleans is reduced, it will be in the power of the government to reinforce the land forces sufficiently to accomplish all these objects; in the meantime you will please give all the assistance in your power to the army and navy commanders in your vicinity, never losing sight of the fact that the great object to be achieved is the capture and firm retention of New Orleans.

"Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"GEORGE B. McCLELLAN,

"Major-General Commanding, etc., etc."

THE CAPTURE OF THE FORTS BELOW NEW ORLEANS.

On the 24th of February he left Fortress Monroe, and on the 23d of the following month he arrived at Ship Island. On the 15th of April he left the barren and inhospitable island with eight thousand troops for New Orleans. Having arrived in the Mississippi, he, on the morning of the 24th, after Farragut had succeeded in getting by the forts, landed three thousand men, and hemming in Forts St. Philip and Jackson, caused a mutiny to prevail in the latter, and compelled it to surrender. The other fort as well as those on Lake Pontchartrain followed, and sending all the men he could transport, but two thousand, up the river, he landed at New Orleans. Previous to this, however, the Department of the Gulf, comprising all the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, west of Pensacola harbor, and so much of the Gulf States as might be occupied by the forces under Major-General B. F. Butler, was created, and the following staff was announced:

Major George C. Strong, A. A. General, Ordnance Officer and Chief of Staff.

Captain Jonas H. French, A. D. C. and Acting Inspector-General.

Captain Peter Haggerty, Aide-de-Camp.

First Lieutenant W. H. Wiegel, A. D. C.

First Lieutenant J. W. Cushing, Thirty-first Massachusetts Volunteers, Acting Chief Quartermaster.

First Lieutenant J. E. Easterbrook, Thirtieth Massachusetts Volunteers, Acting Chief Commissary.

Captain George A. Kensel, Chief of Artillery.

First Lieutenant Godfrey Wietzel, Chief Engineer.

First Lieutenant J. C. Palfrey, Assistant Engineer.

First Lieutenant C. N. Turnbull, Chief of Topographical Engineers.

Surgeon Thomas H. Bache, Medical Director.

Major J. M. Bell, Volunteer Aide-de-Camp.

Captain R. S. Davis, Volunteer Aide-de-Camp.

First Lieutenant J. B. Kinsman, "

Second Lieutenant H. C. Clarke, "

The following report of General Butler gives all necessary details of the capture of the forts :

"HEAD-QUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,

"FORTS JACKSON AND ST. PHILIP, *April 29th*, 1862.

"*Hon. E. M. Stanton, Secretary of War :*

"SIR: I have the honor to report that, in obedience to my instructions, I remained on the Mississippi river, with the troops named in my former despatch, awaiting the action of the fleet engaged in the bombardment of the Forts Jackson and St. Philip.

"Failing to reduce them after six days of incessant fire, Flag-Officer Farragut determined to attempt their passage with his whole fleet, except that part thereof under the immediate command of Capt. Porter, known as the mortar-fleet.

"On the morning of the twenty-fourth instant, the fleet got under weigh, and twelve vessels, including the four sloops-of-war, ran the gauntlet of fire of the forts, and were safely above. Of the gallantry, courage, and conduct of this heroic action, unprecedented in naval warfare, considering the character of the works and the river, too much cannot be said. Of its casualties, and the details of its performance, the Flag-Officer will give an account to the proper department. I witnessed this daring exploit from a point about eight hundred yards from Fort Jackson, and unwittingly under its fire, and the sublimity of the scene can never be exceeded.

"The fleet pressed on up the river to New Orleans, leaving two gunboats to protect the Quarantine Station, five miles above

"In case the forts were not reduced and a portion of the fleet got by them, it had been arranged between the Flag-Officer and myself, that I should make a landing from the Gulf side, in the rear of the forts at Quarantine, and from thence attempt Fort St. Philip by storm and assault, while the bombardment was continued by the fleet.

"I immediately went to Sable Island with my transports, twelve miles in the rear of Fort St. Philip, the nearest point at which a sufficient depth of water could be found for them. Capt. Porter put at my disposal the *Miami*, drawing seven and one-half feet, being the lightest draught vessel in the fleet, to take the troops from the ship as far in as the water would allow. We were delayed twenty-four hours by her running ashore at Pass a l'Ouvre. The Twenty-sixth regiment Massachusetts volunteers, Col. Jones, were then put on board her, and carried within six miles of the fort, where she again grounded.

"Capt. Everett, of the Sixth Massachusetts battery, having very fully reconnoitered the waters and bayous in that vicinity, and foreseeing the necessity, I had collected and brought with me some thirty boats, into which the troops were again transhipped, and conveyed by a most fatiguing and laborious row some four and one-half miles further, there being within one mile of the steamer, only two and one-half feet of water.

"A large portion of this passage was against a heavy current, through a bayou. At the entrance of Mameel's Canal, a mile and one-half from the point of landing, rowing became impossible, as well from the narrowness of the canal as the strength of the current, which ran like a mill-race. Through this the boats could only be impelled by dragging them singly, with the men up to their waists in water.

"It is due to this fine regiment, and to a portion of the Fourth Wisconsin volunteers and Twenty-first Indiana, who landed under this hardship without a murmur, that their labors should be made known to the Department, as well as to account for the slowness of our operations.

"The enemy evidently considered this mode of attack impossible, as they had taken no measures to oppose it, which might very easily have been successfully done.

"We occupied at once both sides of the river, thus effectually cutting them off from all supplies, information, or succor, while we made our dispositions for the assault.

"Meantime Capt. Porter had sent into the bayou, in the rear of Fort Jackson, two schooners of his mortar-fleet, to prevent the escape of the enemy from the fort in that direction.

"In the hurry and darkness of the passage of the forts, the Flag-Officer had overlooked three of the enemy's gunboats and the iron-clad battery *Louisiana*, which were at anchor under the walls of the fort. Supposing that all the rebel boats had been destroyed (and a dozen or more had been), he passed on to the

city, leaving these in his rear. The iron steam-battery being very formidable, Capt. Porter deemed it prudent to withdraw his mortar-fleet some miles below, where he could have room to manœuvre it if attacked by the iron monster, and the bombardment ceased.

"I had got Brigadier-General Phelps in the river below with two regiments to make demonstrations in that direction if it became possible.

"In the night of the twenty-seventh, learning that the fleet had got the city under its guns, I left Brigadier-General Williams in charge of the landing of the troops, and went up the river to the flag-ship to procure light draught transportation. That night the larger portion (about two hundred and fifty) of the garrison of Fort Jackson mutinied, spiked the guns bearing up the river, came up and surrendered themselves to my pickets, declaring that, as we had got in their rear, resistance was useless, and they would not be sacrificed. No bomb had been thrown at them for three days, nor had they fired a shot at us from either fort. They averred that they had been impressed, and would fight no longer.

"On the twenty-eighth, the officers of Forts Jackson and St. Philip surrendered to Capt. Porter, he having means of water transportation to them. While he was negotiating, however, with the officers of the forts under a white flag, the rebel naval officers put all their munitions of war on the Louisiana, set her on fire and adrift upon the Harriet Lane, but when opposite Fort St. Philip she blew up, killing one of their own men by the fragments which fell into that fort.

"I have taken possession of the forts and find them substantially as defensible as before the bombardment—St. Philip precisely so, it being quite uninjured. They are fully provisioned, well supplied with ammunition, and the ravages of the shells have been defensibly repaired by the labors of the rebels. I will cause Lieutenant Wietzel, of the engineers, to make a detailed report of their condition to the Department.

"I have left the Twenty-sixth regiment Massachusetts volunteers in garrison, and am now going up the river to occupy the city with my troops, and make further demonstrations in the rear of the enemy now at Corinth.

"The rebels have abandoned all their defensive works in and around New Orleans, including Forts Pike and Wood, on Lake Pontchartrain, and Fort Livingston from Barataria Bay. They have retired in the direction of Corinth, beyond Manchac Pass, and abandoned every thing up the river as far as Donaldsonville, some seventy miles beyond New Orleans.

"I propose to so far depart from the letter of my instructions as to endeavor to persuade the Flag-Officer to pass up the river as far as the mouth of Red river, if possible, so as to cut off their supplies, and make there a landing and a demonstration

in their rear as a diversion in favor of General Buell, if a decisive battle is not fought before such movement is possible.

"Mobile is ours whenever we choose, and we can better wait.

"I find the city under the dominion of the mob. They have insulted our flag—torn it down with indignity. This outrage will be punished in such manner as in my judgment will caution both the perpetrators and abettors of the act, so that they shall fear the *stripes* if they do not reverence the *stars* of our banner.

"I send a marked copy of a New Orleans paper containing an applauding account of the outrage.

"Trusting my action may meet the approbation of the Department,

"I am, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

"BENJAMIN F. BUTLER,

"*Major-General Commanding.*"

THE OCCUPATION OF NEW ORLEANS—MUMFORD'S TREASON.

Captain Farragut, upon arriving off New Orleans, sent two of his officers ashore with a communication to the Mayor demanding the surrender of the city and the elevation of the flag of the Union over the Custom-House, the Mint, the Post-Office, and the City Hall. The Mayor stated that he had no authority in the matter, and would refer it to the Military Commander, General Lovell, who shortly afterwards declined to accede to the demand, but remarked that if General Butler saw proper to shell the city, he could do so. Subsequently the demand was repeated, and on the morning of the twenty-seventh of April the Stars and Stripes were hoisted over the Mint, but a few hours later the emblem of freedom was torn from the staff by a band of rebels led by W. B. Mumford, and amid the yells of the mob dragged through the muddy streets and then torn into shreds and distributed among the infuriated populace. The insult was witnessed by our naval heroes, but the presence of thousands of women and children prevented the guns of the vessels from being discharged upon the city. A few hours afterwards General Butler

arrived and advised that the women and children should be ordered away and the town threatened, a suggestion which induced Captain Farragut to notify the Mayor that if the dastardly scene was to be renewed, to remove the helpless residents within forty-eight hours. On the twenty-ninth a hundred marines landed on the levee and hoisted the American flag on the public buildings.

On the first of May General Butler issued an order in anticipation of his landing, forbidding the plundering of private or public property, and the absence of any officer or soldier from his position, without arms or alone; and the same afternoon, with a small portion of the command, disembarked, and to the soul-stirring tune of the "Star-Spangled Banner," moved through the principal streets to the Custom-House, followed by a mob of excited men, who along the entire route applied the vilest epithets to the fearless commander and his heroic, patient troops.

HIS PROCLAMATION TO THE PEOPLE.

The next morning two of his staff-officers visited the office of the *True Delta* and requested its proprietor to print a proclamation which the General had addressed to the people of New Orleans, but the request was refused, and in two hours a file of soldiers were in possession of the establishment, and a sufficient number of printers selected from the ranks at work setting up the copy of the important document. Not satisfied with the refusal, the editor on the next day in an editorial article stated his determination to stand or fall with the fortunes of the State, and pledged himself to suspend the publication of his paper, even if his last crust should be sacrificed, rather "than molt one feather of that independence which, in presence of every discouragement and danger, we have ever made our honest boast." The paper was immediately suspended by General Butler, but on the next day the proprietor was

permitted to resume its issue on the promise to obey the General's orders.

The Proclamation was as follows :

“HEAD-QUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
“NEW ORLEANS, *May 1st*, 1862.

“The city of New Orleans and its environs, with all its interior and exterior defences, having surrendered to the combined naval and land forces of the United States, and being now in the occupation of the forces of the United States, who have come to restore order, maintain public tranquillity, and enforce peace and quiet, under the laws and constitution of the United States, the major-general commanding hereby proclaims the object and purposes of the government of the United States in thus taking possession of New Orleans and the State of Louisiana, and the rules and regulations by which the laws of the United States will be for the present, and during the state of war, enforced and maintained, for the plain guidance of all good citizens of the United States, as well as others who may have heretofore been in rebellion against their authority.

“Thrice before has the city of New Orleans been rescued from the hands of a foreign government, and still more calamitous domestic insurrection, by the money and arms of the United States. It has of late been under the military control of the rebel forces, and at each time, in the judgment of the commanders of the military forces holding it, it has been found necessary to preserve order and maintain quiet by an administration of martial law. Even during the interim from its evacuation by the rebel soldiers, and its actual possession by the soldiers of the United States, the civil authorities have found it necessary to call for the intervention of an armed body known as the European Legion, to preserve the public tranquillity. The commanding general, therefore, will cause the city to be guarded, until the restoration of the United States authority, and his further orders, by martial law.

“All persons in arms against the United States are required to surrender themselves, with their arms, equipments, and munitions of war. The body known as the European Legion, not being understood to be in arms against the United States, but organized to protect the lives and property of the citizens, are invited to still co-operate with the forces of the United States to that end, and, so acting, will not be included in the terms of this order, but will report to these head-quarters.

“All ensigns, flags, devices, tending to uphold any authority whatever, save the flags of the United States and those of foreign consulates, must not be exhibited, but suppressed. The American ensign, the emblem of the United States, must be treated

with the utmost deference and respect by all persons, under pain of severe punishment.

"All persons well disposed towards the government of the United States, who shall renew the oath of allegiance, will receive a safeguard of protection to their persons and property from the army of the United States, and the violation of such safeguard will be punishable with death. All persons still holding allegiance to the Confederate States, will be deemed rebels against the government of the United States, and regarded and treated as enemies thereof. All foreigners, not naturalized, and claiming allegiance to their respective governments, and not having made oath of allegiance to the government of the Confederate States, will be protected in their persons and property, as heretofore, under the laws of the United States. All persons who may have heretofore given adherence to the supposed government of the Confederate States, or been in their service, who shall lay down or deliver up their arms, return to peaceful occupations, and preserve quiet and order, holding no farther correspondence, nor giving aid and comfort to enemies of the United States, will not be disturbed in their persons or property, except so far under the orders of the commanding general as the exigencies of the public service may render necessary.

"Keepers of all public property, whether State, national, or confederate, such as collections of art, libraries, and museums, as well as all public buildings, all munitions of war and armed vessels, will at once make full returns thereof to these headquarters. All manufacturers of arms and munitions of war will report to these headquarters their kind and places of business. All the rights of property, of whatever kind, will be held inviolate, subject only to the laws of the United States. All the inhabitants are enjoined to pursue their usual avocations. All shops and places of amusement are to be kept open in the accustomed manner, and services are to be held in the churches and religious houses, as in times of profound peace.

"Keepers of all public houses and drinking-saloons are to report their names and numbers to the office of the provost-marshal, and they will then receive a license, and be held responsible for all disorders and disturbances arising in their respective places.

"Sufficient force will be kept in the city to preserve order and maintain the laws. The killing of American soldiers by any disorderly person or mob, is simply assassination and murder, and not war, and will be so regarded and punished. The owner of any house in which such murder shall be committed, will be held responsible therefor, and the house be liable to be destroyed by the military authority. All disorders, disturbances of the peace, and crimes of an aggravated nature, interfering with the forces or laws of the United States, will be referred to a military

court for trial and punishment. Other misdemeanors will be subject to the municipal authority, if it desires to act.

"Civil causes between party and party will be referred to the ordinary tribunals.

"The levy and collection of taxes, save those imposed by the laws of the United States, are suppressed, except those for keeping in repair and lighting the streets, and for sanitary purposes. These are to be collected in the usual manner.

"The circulation of Confederate bonds, evidences of debt (except notes in the similitude of bank-notes) issued by the Confederate States, or scrip, or any trade in the same, is forbidden. It has been represented to the commanding general by the civil authorities that these Confederate notes, in the form of bank-notes, in a great measure, are the only substitutes for money which the people have been allowed to have, and that great distress would ensue among the poorer classes if the circulation of such notes should be suppressed. Such circulation, therefore, will be permitted so long as any one will be inconsiderate enough to receive them, until further orders.

"No publication of newspapers, pamphlets, or hand-bills, giving accounts of the movements of the soldiers of the United States, within this department, reflecting in any way upon the United States, intended in any way to influence the public mind against the United States, will be permitted, and all articles on war news, editorial comments, or correspondence making comments upon the movements of the armies of the United States, must be submitted to the examination of an officer, who will be detailed for that purpose from these head-quarters. The transmission of all communications by telegraph will be under the charge of an officer detailed from these head-quarters.

"The armies of the United States came here not to destroy, but to restore order out of chaos, to uphold the government and the laws in the place of the 'passage' of men. To this end, therefore, the efforts of all well disposed are invited, to have every species of disorder quelled.

"If any soldier of the United States should so far forget his duty or his flag as to commit outrage upon any person or property, the commanding general requests his name to be instantly reported to the provost guard, so that he may be punished and his wrongful act redressed. The municipal authority, so far as the police of the city and environs are concerned, is to extend as before indicated, until suspended.

"All assemblages of persons in the streets, either by day or night, tend to disaster, and are forbidden. The various companies composing the Fire Department of New Orleans will be permitted to retain their organizations, and are to report to the provost-marshal, so that they may be known, and not interfered with in their duties.

"And, finally, it may be sufficient to add, without further

enumeration, that all the requirements of martial law will be imposed so long as, in the judgment of the United States authorities, it may be necessary; and while it is desired by these authorities to exercise this government mildly, and after the usages of the past, it must not be supposed that it will not be rigorously and firmly administered as the occasion calls for it. By command of

“MAJOR-GENERAL BUTLER.

“GEO. B. STRONG, *A. A. G., Chief of Staff.*”

GENERAL BUTLER'S INTERVIEW WITH THE MAYOR.

The St. Charles Hotel was taken as the head-quarters of General Butler, and immediately afterwards a party of officers, one of them the lamented Strong, then Chief of the General's staff, waited on the Mayor and informed him that the Commander of the Department of the Gulf would be happy to confer with the Mayor and Council of New Orleans at the St. Charles Hotel at two o'clock P.M. The Mayor at first declined to accept the invitation, but subsequently signified his intention to call, and at the hour designated, accompanied by Pierre Soulé and others, he waited upon the General. In the meantime the populace, recovering from their alarm, had rushed *en masse* to the St. Charles, and fears were entertained that violence would be attempted. An aide-de-camp entered the head-quarters and reported that General Williams had fears he would be unable to control the infuriated people. General Butler, without evincing the slightest alarm, requested the aid to tell General Williams if he found he could not control the mob, to open upon them with artillery, an order which caused the Mayor to spring to his feet and request that that alternative might not be adopted. He also offered to go out and speak to the people, and in a few moments his arguments proved to his auditors the dangerous step they were taking.

AN ACT OF HEROISM.

The conference was then resumed, but was soon again interrupted by the entrance of Lieut. Kinsman of the staff. He had just reached the hotel with Judge Summers, Ex-Recorder, who had sought refuge on board the Mississippi, and who on the way from the levee had been threatened with death by the populace. Not satisfied with the security of the hotel, General Butler instructed the Judge to go to the Custom-House for protection, and ordering the Lieutenant to take what force he required, directed him to take him thither, and if any molestation was experienced to arrest the parties, and if a rescue was attempted to fire. Of what followed we obtain the following details from the interesting work, "General Butler in New Orleans," lately written by James Parton, Esq., and published by Mason Brothers of New York—a work that everybody should get and read.

"Lieutenant Kinsman proceeded to obey the order. He conducted Mr. Summers to a side door, which he opened, and disclosed to the view of his charge a compact mass of infuriated men, held at bay by a company of fifty soldiers.

"'Don't attempt it,' said the judge, recoiling from the sight.

"'I must,' returned the lieutenant. 'The general's orders were positive. I have no choice but to obey.'

"The company of soldiers were soon drawn up in two lines, four feet apart, two men closing the front and two the rear of the column. In the open space were Lieutenant Kinsman and Mr. Summers.

"'Forward, march!' The column started. The crowd recognizing the giant judge, yelled and boiled around the slowly pushing column. The active men of the mob were not those within reach of the soldiers. The nearest men prudently held their peace and watched their chance. Consequently, no arrests were made until the column had gone half-way to the Custom-House. At that point stood an omnibus with one man in it, who was urging on the mob, by voice and gesture, with the violence of frenzy.

"'Halt! Bring out that man!'

"Two soldiers sprang into the omnibus, collared the lunatic, drew him out, and placed him between the lines, where

he continued to yell and gesticulate in the most frantic manner.

"‘Stop your noise!’ thundered the lieutenant.

"‘I won’t,’ said the man; ‘my tongue is my own.’

"‘Sergeant ———, lower your bayonet. If a sound comes out of that man’s mouth, run him through!’

"The man was silent.

"‘Forward—march!’ The column pushed on again, but very slowly. After going some distance, the lieutenant perceived that one man, who had been particularly vociferous, was within clutching distance.

"‘Halt—bring in that man,’ pointing him out.

"The man was seized and placed in the column. He continued to shout, but a lowered bayonet brought him to his senses also. The column pushed on again, and lodged the judge and the two prisoners safely in the impregnable Custom-House, the citadel of New Orleans. The company marched back, in the same order, through a crowd ‘as silent as a funeral,’ to use the lieutenant’s own language.

"This scene was witnessed from the windows of the St. Charles by General Butler and his staff, and by the mayor and his friends, the conference being suspended by common consent."

During the day the General received a number of letters, many of them threatening, and all, with but few exceptions, abusive. "Picayune Butler," "Old Cock-Eye," "Yankee Fiend," and other epithets were applied by anonymous correspondents, much to the amusement of the person to whom they were addressed. Notwithstanding the numerous threats of murder by shooting and poison, General Butler that night escorted his heroic wife, who, by the way, rarely failed to accompany him on his patriotic but dangerous missions, from the steamer to his quarters.

THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF HIS POSITION.

General Butler’s position was one of vast responsibility and labor accompanied by great danger, but he had considered well the cares, vexations and risks before he accepted the trust. For two weeks he remained in New Orleans with two thousand men, only two hundred and

fifty of whom were in the city proper, subject to instant call, but by marching this small number backwards and forwards through the streets, he induced the traitors to believe that a much larger force was in their midst. Deadly as the hatred was, however, for the Union soldiers, no molestation except by insolent remarks and grimaces was attempted. General Butler had announced his determination to suppress the unruly element to a degree which would enable him to ride at will without being insulted, or to make a desert of the metropolis, and feeling that he had the power to carry out his pledges, they obeyed his wishes.

Soon after establishing his head-quarters, he was visited by the foreign consuls, whom he satisfied that he desired to leave all officials, municipal and foreign, to the uninterrupted discharge of the duties of their respective offices, and as an evidence of the truthfulness of the remark, he permitted the Mayor and Councils to retain their power in all save military matters.

General Butler early directed his attention to the suffering of the people from the scarcity of food, many thousands of the citizens actually being on the border of starvation, and although harassed by a thousand cares, he devised plans of relief which were eminently successful. He gave permission for the transportation of a large amount of supplies from Mobile and from points on the Mississippi above New Orleans, the faith of the city being pledged for the honorable fulfilment of the charitable work; he gave from his own private purse one thousand dollars; he shut up a free market which had been opened for the purpose of supplying only the families of Rebel soldiers, and took charge of the distribution himself; and subsequently organized a relief association and levied an assessment of nearly three hundred and fifty thousand dollars on the secessionists who had subscribed to the Rebel

defence fund, and the cotton brokers who had advised the planters not to bring their staple to market. At one time he was feeding about ten thousand families, or about thirty-four thousand persons, each day, and not more than twelve hundred of the families were Americans.

The filthy condition of the city, which had not been touched by the brush of the street-cleaner for several months, and the approach of the warm term—a season which the traitors were anxiously awaiting, believing that with it would come destruction to the unacclimated troops—warned General Butler of the importance of sanitary regulations; and in a few days one thousand men were at work cleansing the thoroughfares, large and small, building levees, and placing the city generally in order. Ten or eleven miles of canals, by which the city is drained, and some of which had not been touched for fifteen years, were cleaned; and a strict quarantine was established. The result was that the expectations and prayers of the traitors were disappointed, and the city was not visited that summer by the yellow fever.

Notwithstanding the large outlay of money required to accomplish all these improvements, and to feed so many thousands of hungry people, General Butler managed by his levies upon the bankers, merchants and brokers, who had been liberal in their contributions to the Southern cause, to obtain a sufficient sum to pay all the expenses, and to make him, as Mr. Chase termed him, “the cheapest General employed in the service.”

HIS TROUBLE WITH THE CONSULS.

In superintending the financial affairs of the city, General Butler ascertained that some time previous to his landing, a large number of kegs of silver had been taken from the Citizens' Bank, to the office of the Consul of the Netherlands, and suspecting that the coin had been

secreted for the purpose of defrauding the creditors of the bank, or that it was a part of the finances of the rebel government, sent a guard to recover it. M. Conturié protested against the act, and solemnly declared there was nothing in the building that did not belong to the Consulate or himself, but refused to allow a search to be made. Lieut. Kinsman was sent to the office and demanded the key of the vault, but finding that the Consul was persistent in his refusal, ordered the guard to search him, which was done, and the key being found, the door of the vault was opened, and there were discovered, notwithstanding the assertions of the functionary to the contrary, one hundred and sixty kegs, each containing five thousand Mexican dollars. Dies and bank plates of the Citizens' Bank, and plates and paper of the Confederate Treasury notes, were also found. The Consul was released and the coin was removed to the Mint. During the interview preceding the discovery, M. Conturié became much exasperated at some rather severe, but under the circumstances perfectly proper remarks, made by Lieut. Kinsman, and addressed a statement of the facts to General Butler, which elicited the following reply :

"Your communication of the 10th instant is received. The nature of the property found concealed beneath your consular flag—the specie, dies, and plates of the Citizens' Bank of New Orleans—under a claim that it was private property, which claim is now admitted to be groundless, shows you have merited, so far as I can judge, the treatment you have received, even if a little rough. Having prostituted your flag to a base purpose, you could not hope to have it respected so debased."

On the twelfth of May, every Consul in New Orleans, except the Mexican, sent to the General the following protest :

"NEW ORLEANS, May 12th, 1862.

"MAJOR GENERAL B. F. BUTLER, United States Army,

"Commanding Department of the Gulf:

"General : It having come to the knowledge of the undersigned that the Consulate of his Majesty, the King of Netherlands, in

this city, had been forcibly entered by your orders by some persons in the uniforms of soldiers in the service of the United States Government, the person of the consul subjected to indignity and severe ill-usage, and kept prisoner for several hours, it becomes the duty of the undersigned, in view of treaties now existing between the governments which we represent and that of the United States, to formally protest against such action, and against any act authorized by you or any authority of the United States that may be in contravention of such treaties. We have the honor to be, General, your most obedient servants."

On the same day, General Butler returned the following answer :

"HEAD-QUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
"NEW ORLEANS, *May 12th*, 1862.

"MESSRS : I have the protest which you have thought it proper to make in regard to the action of my officers toward the consul of the Netherlands, which action I approve and sustain. I am grieved that, without investigation of the facts, you, Messrs., should have thought it your duty to take action in the matter. The fact will appear to be, and easily to be demonstrated at the proper time, that the flag of the Netherlands was made to cover and conceal property of an incorporated company of Louisiana, secreted under it from the operation of the laws of the United States. That the supposed fact that the consul had under the flag only the property of Hope & Co., citizens of the Netherlands, is untrue. He had other property which could not by law be his property, or the property of Hope & Co.; of this I have abundant proof in my own hands. No person can excel me in the respect which I shall pay to the flags of all nations, and to the consulate authority, even while I do not recognize many claims made under them; but I wish it most distinctly understood that, in order to be respected, the consul, his office, and the use of his flag, must each and all be respectable. I have the honor to be very respectfully your obedient servant,

"BENJAMIN F. BUTLER,
"*Major-General Commanding.*"

On the following day the Associated Banks requested permission to restore their specie to their vaults, a privilege which he acceded, on condition that the specie should be used in good faith to make good the obligations of the banks to their creditors by bills and deposits, the time of redemption to be left to the good judgment of the banks.

General Butler also, on the thirteenth of May, prohibited the citizens from observing a day which had been set apart by Jefferson Davis for fasting and prayer.

THE CELEBRATED WOMAN ORDER.

On the fifteenth of May, 1862, General Butler issued the celebrated order No. 28, which read as follows :

“HEAD-QUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
“NEW ORLEANS, *May 15th*, 1862.

“GENERAL ORDER No. 28 :

“As the officers and soldiers of the United States have been subject to repeated insults from the women (calling themselves ladies) of New Orleans, in return for the most scrupulous non-interference and courtesy on our part, it is ordered that hereafter when any female shall, by word, gesture, or movement, insult or show contempt for any officer or soldier of the United States, she shall be regarded and held liable to be treated as a woman of the town plying her avocation.

“By command of “MAJOR-GENERAL BUTLER.
“GEO. C. STRONG, *A. A. G., Chief of Staff.*”

When he penned the order, the act was dictated solely with a view of suppressing, then and forever, a disagreeable nuisance which had existed in New Orleans since its occupation. The females of the city, not only the poor and ignorant, but more especially those who, from birth, education, and position, should have better understood the rules of politeness, had, from the moment the troops landed, embraced every opportunity to insult them. Rebel flags and badges were displayed upon their persons; treasonable songs were sung within the hearing of the military; upturned noses and contemptuous sneers marked the features of every passing beauty; young girls, mere children, in their promenades, evinced as much effrontery and boldness as their mothers; church-pews and car-seats were vacated upon the entrance of Union heroes, and one degraded representative of Southern aristocracy actually spat in the faces of two of our officers as she

passed them on the street. The unfortunate objects of this indignation and spleen at first were patient sufferers, but finally forbearance became impossible. To arrest them would have instantly created a popular disturbance, which could but have led to sanguinary scenes. General Butler therefore wrote the celebrated order which, although it accomplished all that was intended, brought down upon its author the curses of the rebels and their sympathizing friends in the North and foreign lands. "Beast Butler" became the title of the distinguished commander; Beauregard ordered the document read on dress-parade for the information of the army, and also thus addressed his followers: "Men of the South, shall our mothers, wives, daughters and sisters, be thus outraged by the ruffianly soldiers of the North, to whom is given the right to treat at their pleasure the ladies of the South as common harlots? Arouse, friends, and drive back from our soil these infamous invaders of our homes, and disturbers of our family ties;" and a stirring appeal, purporting to have been written by "The Daughters of New Orleans," calling upon the Southern soldiers to avenge their wrongs, and imploring them not to surrender their cities to the "mercy of this merciless foe," was extensively circulated by the Southern press. The Governor of Louisiana issued an address to the people, in which he thus refers to the order:

"History records instances of cities sacked, and inhuman atrocities committed upon the women of a conquered town, but in no instance, in modern times, at least, without the brutal ravishers suffering condign punishment from the hands of their own commanders. It was reserved for a Federal general to invite his soldiers to the perpetration of outrages, at the mention of which the blood recoils in horror—to quicken the impulse of their sensual instincts by the suggestion of transparent excuses for their gratification, and to add to an infamy already well merited these crowning titles of a panderer to lust and a desecrator of virtue.

"Organize, then, quickly and efficiently. If your enemy attempt to proceed into the interior, let his pathway be marked by

his blood. It is your homes that you have to defend. It is the jewel of your hearths, the chastity of your women, you have to guard. Let that thought animate your breasts, nerve your arms, quicken your energies, and inspire your resolution. Strike home to the heart of your foe the blow that rids your country of his presence. If needs be, let his blood moisten your own grave. It will rise up before your children as a perpetual memento of a race whom it will teach to hate now and evermore."

A chivalrous Mississippian offered ten thousand dollars for General Butler's head; a woman of Savannah suggested the propriety of every representative of her sex in the South contributing her mite to increase the sum; the columns of the newspapers in rebeldom teemed with effusions, prose and poetry. Across the water the friends of the traitors were loud in their denunciations, and even Lord Palmerston said in a public speech that no man could read the order without a feeling of the deepest indignation, and every Englishman must blush to think one of the Anglo-Saxon race committed the act. In *Punch* was the following stanza:

" Haynau's lash tore woman's back,
When she riz his dander,
Butler, by his edict black,
Stumps that famed commander.
Wreaking upon maid and dame
Savagery subtler:
None but Nena Sahib name
Along with General Butler.
Yankee doodle, doodle doo,
Yankee doodle dandy;
Butler is a rare Yahoo,
As brave as Sepoy Pandey."

General Butler, however, was not to be affected by this abuse, and announced that under the same circumstances he would issue the order again. The correspondence between the General and the Mayor of New Orleans on the subject led to the removal of the latter from office and his subsequent incarceration. On the morning that the order was promulgated he addressed the following letter:

"STATE OF LOUISIANA, MAYORALTY OF NEW ORLEANS,

"May 16th, 1862.

"MAJOR-GENERAL B. F. BUTLER, *Commanding U. S. Forces.*

"SIR:—Your General Order, No. 28, of date 15th inst., which reads as follows, is of a character so extraordinary and astonishing that I can not, holding the office of chief magistrate of this city, chargeable with its peace and dignity, suffer it to be promulgated in our presence without protesting against the threat it contains, which has already aroused the passions of our people, and must exasperate them to a degree beyond control. Your officers and soldiers are permitted, by the terms of this order, to place any construction they may please upon the conduct of our wives and daughters, and, upon such construction, to offer them atrocious insults. The peace of the city and the safety of your officers and soldiers from harm or insult have, I affirm, been successfully secured to an extent enabling them to move through our streets almost unnoticed, according to the understanding and agreement entered into between yourself and the city authorities. I did not, however, anticipate a war upon women and children, who, so far as I am aware, have only manifested their displeasure at the occupation of their city by those whom they believe to be their enemies, and I will never undertake to be responsible for the peace of New Orleans while such an edict, which infuriates our citizens, remains in force. To give a license to the officers and soldiers of your command to commit outrages, such as are indicated in your order, upon defenceless women is, in my judgment, a reproach to the civilization, not to say to the Christianity, of the age, in whose name I make this protest. I am, sir, your obedient servant,

"JOHN T. MONROE, *Mayor.*"

General Butler immediately suspended the Mayor from office and ordered him to be committed to Fort Jackson, but subsequently, having had the obnoxious order satisfactorily explained to him, the city official apologized and was relieved from arrest. In the evening, however, he sent the following note :

"MAYORALTY OF NEW ORLEANS,

"CITY HALL, May 16th, 1862.

"MAJOR-GENERAL BUTLER :

"SIR:—Having misunderstood you yesterday in relation to your General Order No. 28, I wish to withdraw the indorsement I made on the letter addressed to you yesterday. Please deliver the letter to my secretary, Mr. Duncan, who will hand you this note. Your obedient servant,

"JOHN T. MONROE."

General Butler instantly replied as follows :

“ HEAD-QUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
“ NEW ORLEANS, *May 16th*, 1862.

“ SIR :—There can be, there has been, no room for the misunderstanding of General Order No. 28.

“ No lady will take any notice of a strange gentleman, and *a fortiori* of a stranger, in such form as to attract attention. Common women do.

“ Therefore, whatever woman, lady or mistress, gentle or simple, who, by gesture, look or word, insults, shows contempt for, thus attracting to herself the notice of my officers and soldiers, will be deemed to act as becomes her vocation of common woman, and will be liable to be treated accordingly. This was most fully explained to you at my office.

“ I shall not, as I have not, abated a single word of that order ; it was well considered. If obeyed it will protect the true and modest woman from all possible insult. The others will take care of themselves.

“ You can publish your letter, if you publish this note, and your apology. Respectfully,

“ BENJAMIN F. BUTLER,

“ *Major-General Commanding.*

“ JOHN T. MONROE, *Mayor of New Orleans.*”

To this the Mayor replied by sending to the General a copy of his first letter. General Butler summoned him again to head-quarters. In the presence of the General he declared that he did not wish to send the letter if he could publish what the General had said to him, that Order No. 28 did not refer to *all* the ladies of New Orleans. The General, to prevent all possibility of misunderstanding, wrote at the bottom of a copy of the order :

“ You may say that this order refers to those women only who have shown contempt for and insulted my soldiers, by words, gestures, and movements, in their presence. “ B. F. BUTLER.”

The next morning, however, he again changed his sentiments, and on the following Monday he was sent, with other officials (one or more of whom, including the Mayor, believed to be implicated in a conspiracy among the paroled rebel prisoners in the city), to Fort Jackson, and the

functions of his office were discharged by General Shepley, the Military Commandant.

THE HANGING OF MUMFORD.

On the seventh of June, 1862, another event occurred in the Crescent City which caused much comment, and increased the hatred of the traitors for General Butler. Mumford—he who, on the day of the capture had dared to tear from its staff the flag of the Union, thus not only desecrating that glorious emblem, but also from the act endangering the lives of the citizens who were at the mercy of the guns of our vessels on that day—paid the penalty of his crime. He had been tried by a military commission and ordered to be executed, and on the fifth of the month General Butler issued the following special order :

“NEW ORLEANS, *June 5th*, 1862.

“William B. Mumford, a citizen of New Orleans, having been convicted before the military commission of treason and an overt act thereof, in tearing down the United States flag from a public building of the United States, for the purpose of inciting other evil-minded persons to further resistance to the laws and arms of the United States, after said flag was placed there by Commodore Farragut, of the United States Navy.

“It is ordered that he be executed, according to the sentence of the said military commission, on Saturday, June 7th instant, between the hours of 8 A.M. and 12 M., under the direction of the provost-marshal of the district of New Orleans; and for so doing, this shall be his sufficient warrant.”

He expressed no repentance, and his friends pledged themselves to murder the Commander if he was executed. General Butler had never been intimidated by threats. The scaffold was erected at the Mint, and an immense throng of persons was present when the prisoner walked out on the scaffold. The order of execution was read, and at thirteen minutes before eleven, A. M., he swung in mid-air. The large assemblage quietly dispersed, and the threats of the “Thugs” were not then, nor have they been since attempted to be carried into execution.

OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS OF GENERAL BUTLER—REBEL ATROCITIES.

To record in detail all the important orders which General Butler promulgated and enforced during his term in the Department of the Gulf would require a much larger space than we can give in this volume.* His controversies and voluminous correspondence with the wily bankers; his numerous devices to create funds for the benefit of the poor; his personal and official offerings to charitable institutions of all denominations; his suspension of sympathizing clergy from their duties and their banishment from the city; his surveillance, made necessary by their treason, over foreign Consuls; his correspondence with General Phelps; his regulations for the transportation and sale of cotton; his excellent quarantine laws; his restoration of a sound currency; his organization of a colored militia force; his confiscation laws; his registration of neutral foreigners, and compelling all citizens of the United States in his Department, male and female, to describe their property; and the victorious results which attended the various armed expeditions he sent out from New Orleans under gallant officers, are all matters of interest which will be handed down in history as achievements of one of the most able Commanders of the Union army who figured in the rebellion.

Two orders of General Butler, dated on the 30th of June, 1862, from the atrocious misdeeds which caused them to be issued, should be published. They are as follows:

* The most complete work of the kind published, is issued by Mason Brothers, New York, under the name of "General Butler in New Orleans. A History of the administration of the Department of the Gulf in the year 1862. By James Parton." It is a work that we can also highly recommend to everybody.

"NEW ORLEANS, June 30th, 1862.

"Mrs. Philips, wife of Philip Philips, having been once imprisoned for her traitorous proclivities and acts at Washington, and released by the clemency of the government, and having been found training her children to spit upon officers of the United States at New Orleans, for which act of one of those children both her husband and herself apologized and were again forgiven, is now found on the balcony of her house during the passage of the funeral procession of Lieutenant De Kay, laughing and mocking at his remains; and, upon being inquired of by the commanding general if this fact were so, contemptuously replies, 'I was in good spirits that day.'

"It is therefore ordered, That she be not regarded and treated as a common woman of whom no officer or soldier is bound to take notice, but as an uncommon, bad and dangerous woman, stirring up strife and inciting to riot.

"And that, therefore, she be confined at Ship Island, in the State of Mississippi, within proper limits there, till further orders; and that she be allowed one female servant and no more if she so choose. That one of the houses for hospital purposes be assigned her as quarters; and a soldier's ration each day be served out to her, with the means of cooking the same; and that no verbal or written communication be allowed with her except through this office; and that she be kept in close confinement until removed to Ship Island."

"NEW ORLEANS, June 30th, 1862.

"Fidel Keller has been found exhibiting a human skeleton in his book-store window, in a public place in this city, labelled 'Chickahominy,' in large letters, meaning and intending that the bones should be taken by the populace to be the bones of a United States soldier slain in that battle, in order to bring the authority of the United States and our army into contempt, and for that purpose had stated to the passers-by that the bones were those of a Yankee soldier; whereas, in truth and fact, they were the bones purchased some weeks before of the Mexican consul, to whom they were pledged by a medical student.

"It is therefore ordered, That for this desecration of the dead, he be confined at Ship Island for two years at hard labor, and that he be allowed to communicate with no person on the island except Mrs. Philips, who has been sent there for a like offence. Any written message may be sent by him through these headquarters."

"NEW ORLEANS, June 30th, 1862.

"John W. Andrews exhibited a cross, the emblem of the suffering of our blessed Saviour, fashioned for a personal ornament, which he said was made from the bones of a Yankee soldier, and having shown this too, without rebuke, in the

Louisiana Club, which claims to be composed of chivalric gentlemen,

"*It is therefore ordered*, That for this desecration of the dead, he be confined at hard labor for two years on the fortifications of Ship Island, and that he be allowed no verbal or written communication to or with any one, except through these headquarters."

GENERAL BUTLER REMOVED FROM COMMAND AT NEW ORLEANS.

On the evening of December 14th, 1862, Major-General Banks arrived in New Orleans and presented the following order to General Butler :

"WAR DEPARTMENT, *Adjutant-General's Office*,
"WASHINGTON, *November 9th*, 1862.

GENERAL ORDER, No. 184.

"By direction of the President of the United States, Major-General Banks is assigned to the command of the Department of the Gulf, including the State of Texas.

"By order of the Secretary of War.

"E. D. THOMAS, *Assistant Adjutant-General*.

"H. W. HALLECK, *General-in-Chief*."

Two days later the command was formally surrendered and the following order issued :

"HEAD-QUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE GULF,
"NEW ORLEANS, *December 15th*, 1862.

GENERAL ORDER No. 106.

"*Soldiers of the Army of the Gulf* :

"Relieved from further duties in this department by direction of the President, under date of November 9, 1862, I take leave of you by this final order, it being impossible to visit your scattered outposts, covering hundreds of miles of the frontier of a larger territory than some of the kingdoms of Europe.

"I greet you, my brave comrades, and say farewell !

"This word, endeared as you are by a community of privations; hardships, dangers, victories, successes, military and civil, is the only sorrowful thought I have.

"You have deserved well of your country. Without a murmur you sustained an encampment on a sand bar, so desolate that banishment to it, with every care and comfort possible, has been the most dreaded punishment inflicted upon your bitterest and most insulting enemies.

"You had so little transportation, that but a handful could

advance to compel submission by the queen city of the rebellion, whilst others waded breast-deep in the marshes which surround St. Philip, and forced the surrender of a fort deemed impregnable to land attack by the most skilful engineers of your country and her enemy.

"At your occupation, order, law, quiet, and peace sprang to this city, filled with the bravos of all nations, where for a score of years, during the profoundest peace, human life was scarcely safe at noonday.

"By your discipline you illustrated the best traits of the American soldier, and enchained the admiration of those that came to scoff.

"Landing with a military chest containing but seventy-five dollars, from the hoards of a rebel government you have given to your country's treasury nearly a half million of dollars, and so supplied yourselves with the needs of your service that your expedition has cost your government less by *four-fifths than any other*.

"You have fed the starving poor, the wives and children of your enemies, so converting enemies into friends, that they have sent their representatives to your congress, by a vote greater than your entire numbers, from districts in which, when you entered, you were tauntingly told that there was 'no one to raise your flag.'

"By your practical philanthropy you have won the confidence of the 'oppressed race' and the slave. Hailing you as deliverers, they are ready to aid you as willing servants, faithful laborers, or, using the tactics taught them by your enemies, to fight with you in the field.

"By steady attention to the laws of health, you have stayed the pestilence, and, humble instruments in the hands of God, you have demonstrated the necessity that His creatures should obey His laws, and, reaping His blessing in this most unhealthy climate, you have preserved your ranks fuller than those of any other battalions of the same length of service.

"You have met double numbers of the enemy, and defeated him in the open field; but I need not further enlarge upon this topic. You were sent here to do that.

"I commend you to your commander. You are worthy of his love.

"Farewell, my comrades! again farewell!

"BENJ. F. BUTLER,

"Major-General Commanding."

On the twenty-fourth of December he left the scene of his arduous labors for New York, but before embarking he prepared the following farewell address:

FAREWELL ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE OF NEW ORLEANS.

"CITIZENS OF NEW ORLEANS:—It may not be inappropriate, as it is not inopportune in occasion, that there should be addressed to you a few words at parting, by one whose name is to be hereafter indissolubly connected with your city.

"I shall speak in no bitterness, because I am not conscious of a single personal animosity. Commanding the Army of the Gulf, I found you captured, but not surrendered; conquered, but not orderly; relieved from the presence of an army, but incapable of taking care of yourselves. I restored order, punished crime, opened commerce, brought provisions to your starving people, reformed your currency, and gave you quiet protection, such as you had not enjoyed for many years.

"While doing this, my soldiers were subjected to obloquy, reproach, and insult.

"And now, speaking to you, who know the truth, I here declare that whoever has quietly remained about his business, affording neither aid nor comfort to the enemies of the United States, has never been interfered with by the soldiers of the United States.

"The men who had assumed to govern you and to defend your city in arms having fled, some of your women flouted at the presence of those who came to protect them. By a simple order (No. 28), I called upon every soldier of this army to treat the women of New Orleans as gentlemen should deal with the sex, with such effect that I now call upon the just-minded ladies of New Orleans to say whether they have ever enjoyed so complete protection and calm quiet for themselves and their families as since the advent of the United States troops.

"The enemies of my country, unrepentant and implacable, I have treated with merited severity. I hold that rebellion is treason, and that treason persisted in is *death*, and any punishment short of that due a traitor gives so much clear gain to him from the clemency of the government. Upon this thesis have I administered the authority of the United States, because of which I am not unconscious of complaint. I do not feel that I have erred in too much harshness, for that harshness has ever been exhibited to disloyal enemies to my country, and not to loyal friends. To be sure, I might have regaled you with the amenities of British civilization, and yet been within the supposed rules of civilized warfare. You might have been smoked to death in caverns, as were the Covenanters of Scotland by the command of a general of the royal house of England; or roasted, like the inhabitants of Algiers during the French campaign; your wives and daughters might have been given over to the

ravisher, as were the unfortunate dames of Spain in the Peninsular war; or you might have been scalped and tomahawked as our mothers were at Wyoming by the savage allies of Great Britain in our own Revolution; your property could have been turned over to indiscriminate 'loot,' like the palace of the Emperor of China; works of art which adorned your buildings might have been sent away, like the paintings of the Vatican; your sons might have been blown from the mouths of cannon, like the Sepoys at Delhi; and yet all this would have been within the rules of civilized warfare as practised by the most polished and the most hypocritical nations of Europe. For such acts the records of the doings of some of the inhabitants of your city toward the friends of the Union, before my coming, were a sufficient provocative and justification.

"But I have not so conducted. On the contrary, the worst punishment inflicted, except for criminal acts punishable by every law, has been banishment with labor to a barren island, where I encamped my own soldiers before marching here.

"It is true, I have levied upon the wealthy rebels, and paid out nearly half a million of dollars to feed 40,000 of the starving poor of all nations assembled here, made so by this war.

"I saw that this rebellion was a war of the aristocrats against the middling men—of the rich against the poor; a war of the land-owner against the laborer; that it was a struggle for the retention of power in the hands of the few against the many; and I found no conclusion to it, save in the subjugation of the few and the disenthralment of the many. I, therefore, felt no hesitation in taking the substance of the wealthy, who had caused the war, to feed the innocent poor, who had suffered by the war. And I shall now leave you with the proud consciousness that I carry with me the blessings of the humble and loyal, under the roof of the cottage and in the cabin of the slave, and so am quite content to incur the sneers of the *salon*, or the curses of the rich.

"I found you trembling at the terrors of servile insurrection. All danger of this I have prevented by so treating the slave that he has no cause to rebel.

"I found the dungeon, the chain, and the lash your only means of enforcing obedience in your servants. I leave them peaceful, laborious, controlled by the laws of kindness and justice.

"I have demonstrated that the pestilence can be kept from your borders.

"I have added a million of dollars to your wealth in the form of new land from the batture of the Mississippi.

"I have cleansed and improved your streets, canals, and public squares, and opened new avenues to unoccupied land.

"I have given you freedom of elections greater than you have ever enjoyed before.

"I have caused justice to be administered so impartially that your own advocates have unanimously complimented the Judges of my appointment.

"You have seen, therefore, the benefit of the laws and justice of the Government against which you have rebelled.

"Why, then, will you not all return to your allegiance to that Government—not with lip-service, but with the heart?

"I conjure you, if you desire ever to see renewed prosperity, giving business to your streets and wharves—if you hope to see your city become again the mart of the western world, fed by its rivers for more than three thousand miles, draining the commerce of a country greater than the mind of man hath ever conceived—return to your allegiance.

"If you desire to leave to your children the inheritance you received from your fathers—a stable constitutional government; if you desire that they should in the future be a portion of the greatest empire the sun ever shone upon—return to your allegiance.

"There is but one thing that stands in the way.

"There is but one thing that at this hour stands between you and the Government—and that is slavery.

"The institution, cursed of God, which has taken its last refuge here, in His providence will be rooted out as the tares from the wheat, although the wheat be torn up with it.

"I have given much thought to this subject.

"I came among you, by teachings, by habit of mind, by political position, by social affinity, inclined to sustain your domestic laws, if by possibility they might be with safety to the Union.

"Months of experience and of observation have forced the conviction that the existence of slavery is incompatible with the safety either of yourselves or of the Union. As the system has gradually grown to its present huge dimensions, it were best if it could be gradually removed; but it is better, far better, that it should be taken out at once, than that it should longer vitiate the social, political and family relations of your country. I am speaking with no philanthropic views as regards the slave, but simply of the effect of slavery on the master. See for yourselves.

"Look around you and say whether this saddening, deadening influence has not all but destroyed the very framework of your society.

"I am speaking the farewell words of one who has shown his devotion to his country at the peril of his life and fortune, who in these words can have neither hope nor interest, save the good of those whom he addresses; and let me here repeat, with all the solemnity of an appeal to Heaven to bear me witness, that such are the views forced upon me by experience.

"Come, then, to the unconditional support of the Govern-

ment. Take into your own hands your own institutions ; remodel them according to the laws of nations and of God, and thus attain that great prosperity assured to you by geographical position, only a portion of which was heretofore yours.

“ BENJAMIN F. BUTLER.

“ NEW ORLEANS, *Dec. 24th*, 1862.”

On the 23d of the same month, as appeared from Richmond journals subsequently received, Jefferson Davis issued a proclamation pronouncing and declaring his old friend and admirer, General Butler, “to be a felon, deserving of capital punishment,” but as the fulmination, however false its statements may be, is a part of the history of the subject of our sketch we give it entire :

A PROCLAMATION.

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFEDERATE STATES.

“ WHEREAS, a communication was addressed on the 6th day of July last, 1862, by General Robert E. Lee, acting under the instructions of the Secretary of War of the Confederate States of America, to General H. W. Halleck, Commander-in-chief of the United States army, informing the latter that a report had reached this government that Wm. B. Mumford, a citizen of the Confederate States, had been executed by the United States authorities at New Orleans for having pulled down the United States flag in that city before its occupation by the United States forces, and calling for a statement of the facts, with a view of retaliation if such an outrage had really been committed under the sanction of the authorities of the United States.

“ And whereas (no answer having been received to said letter), another letter was, on the 2nd of August last, 1862, addressed by General Lee, under my instructions, to General Halleck, renewing the inquiries in relation to the execution of the said Mumford, with the information that, in the event of not receiving a reply within fifteen days, it would be assumed that the fact was true, and was sanctioned by the government of the United States;

“ And whereas, an answer, dated on the 7th of August last, 1862, was addressed to General Lee by General H. W. Halleck, the said general-in-chief of the armies of the United States, alleging sufficient cause for failure to make early reply to said letter of the 6th of July, asserting that ‘ no authentic information had been received in relation to the execution of Mumford ; but measures will be immediately taken to ascertain the facts of the alleged execution.’ and promising that General Lee should be duly informed thereof ;

"And whereas, on the 26th of November last, 1862, another letter was addressed, under my instructions, by Robert Ould, Confederate agent for the exchange of prisoners, under the cartel between the two governments, to Lieutenant-Colonel W. H. Ludlow, agent of the United States under said cartel, informing him that the explanation promised in the said letter of General Halleck, of 7th of August last, had not yet been received, and that if no answer was sent to the government within fifteen days from the delivery of this last communication, it would be considered that an answer is declined ;

"And whereas, by a letter dated on the 3d day of the present month of December, the said Lieutenant-Colonel Ludlow apprised the said Robert Ould that the above recited communication of the 19th of November had been received and forwarded to the Secretary of War of the United States ; and whereas, this last delay of fifteen days allowed for answer has elapsed, and no answer has been received ;

"And whereas, in addition to the tacit admission resulting from the above refusal to answer, I have received evidence fully establishing the truth of the fact that the said William B. Mumford, a citizen of the Confederacy, was actually and publicly executed in cold blood, by hanging, after the occupation of the city of New Orleans by the forces under General Benjamin F. Butler, when said Mumford was an unresisting and non-combatant captive, and for no offence even alleged to have been committed by him subsequent to the date of the capture of the said city ;

"And whereas, the silence of the government of the United States, and its maintaining of said Butler in high office under its authority for many months after his commission of an act that can be viewed in no other light than as a deliberate murder, as well as of numerous other outrages and atrocities hereafter to be mentioned, afford evidence too conclusive that the said government sanctions the conduct of the said Butler, and is determined that he shall remain unpunished for these crimes ;

"Now, therefore, I, Jefferson Davis, the President of the Confederate States of America, and in their name, do pronounce and declare the said Benjamin F. Butler to be a felon, deserving of capital punishment. I do order that he shall no longer be considered or treated simply as a public enemy of the Confederate States of America, but as an outlaw and common enemy of mankind, and that, in the event of his capture, the officer in command of the capturing force do cause him to be immediately executed by hanging.

"And I do farther order that no commissioned officer of the United States, taken captive, shall be released on parole, before exchanged, until the said Butler shall have met with due punishment for his crimes.

"And whereas, the hostilities waged against this Confederacy

by the forces of the United States, under the command of said Benjamin F. Butler, have borne no resemblance to such warfare as is alone permissible by the rules of international law or the usages of civilization, but have been characterized by repeated atrocities and outrages, among the large number of which the following may be cited as examples :

“Peaceful and aged citizens, unresisting captives and non-combatants, have been confined at hard labor, with hard chains attached to their limbs, and are still so held, in dungeons and fortresses.

“Others have been submitted to a like degrading punishment for selling medicines to the sick soldiers of the Confederacy.

“The soldiers of the United States have been invited and encouraged in general orders to insult and outrage the wives, the mothers, and the sisters of our citizens.

“Helpless women have been torn from their homes, and subjected to solitary confinement, some in fortresses and prisons, and one especially on an island of barren sand, under a tropical sun ; have been fed with loathsome rations that have been condemned as unfit for soldiers, and have been exposed to the vilest insults.

“Prisoners of war, who surrendered to the naval forces of the United States, on agreement that they should be released on parole, have been seized and kept in close confinement.

“Repeated pretexts have been sought or invented for plundering the inhabitants of a captured city, by fines levied and collected under threats of imprisoning recusants at hard labor with ball and chain. The entire population of New Orleans have been forced to elect between starvation by the confiscation of all their property and taking an oath against conscience to bear allegiance to the invader of their country.

“Egress from the city has been refused to those whose fortitude withstood the test, and even to lone and aged women, and to helpless children ; and, after being ejected from their homes and robbed of their property, they have been left to starve in the streets or subsist on charity.

“The slaves have been driven from the plantations in the neighborhood of New Orleans until their owners would consent to share their crops with the commanding general, his brother, Andrew J. Butler, and other officers ; and when such consent had been extorted, the slaves have been restored to the plantations, and there compelled to work under the bayonets of the guards of United States soldiers. Where that partnership was refused, armed expeditions have been sent to the plantations to rob them of every thing that was susceptible of removal.

“And even slaves, too aged or infirm for work, have, in spite of their entreaties, been forced from the homes provided by their owners, and driven to wander helpless on the highway.

“By a recent General Order No. 91, the entire property in

that part of Louisiana west of the Mississippi river has been sequestered for confiscation, and officers have been assigned to duty, with orders to gather up and collect the personal property, and turn over to the proper officers, upon their receipts, such of said property as may be required for the use of the United States army; to collect together all other personal property and bring the same to New Orleans, and cause it to be sold at public auction to highest bidders—an order which, if executed, condemns to punishment, by starvation, at least a quarter of a million of human beings, of all ages, sexes, and conditions, and of which the execution, although forbidden to military officers by the orders of President Lincoln, is in accordance with the confiscation law of our enemies, which he has effected to be enforced through the agency of civil officials.

“And, finally, the African slaves have not only been incited to insurrection by every license and encouragement, but numbers of them have actually been armed for a servile war—a war in its nature far exceeding the horrors and most merciless atrocities of savages.

“And whereas, the officers under command of the said Butler, have been, in many instances, active and zealous agents in the commission of these crimes, and no instance is known of the refusal of any one of them to participate in the outrages above narrated;

“And whereas, the President of the United States has, by public and official declarations, signified not only his approval of the effort to excite servile war within the confederacy, but his intention to give aid and encouragement thereto, if these independent States shall continue to refuse submission to a foreign power after the 1st day of January next, and has thus made known that all appeal to the law of nations, the dictates of reason, and the instincts of humanity would be addressed in vain to our enemies, and that they can be deterred from the commission of these crimes only by the terrors of just tribulation.

“Now, therefore, I, Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America, and acting by their authority, appealing to the Divine Judge in attestation that their conduct is not guided by the passion of revenge, but that they reluctantly yield to the solemn duty of redressing, by necessary severity, crimes of which their citizens are the victims, do issue this my proclamation, and, by virtue of my authority as commander-in-chief of the armies of the Confederate States, do order—

“*First*—That all commissioned officers in the command of said Benjamin F. Butler be declared not entitled to be considered as soldiers engaged in honorable warfare, but as robbers and criminals, deserving death; and that they and each of them be, whenever captured, reserved for execution.

“*Second*—That the private soldiers and non-commissioned

officers in the army of said Butler be considered as only the instruments used for the commission of crimes perpetrated by his orders, and not as free agents; that they, therefore, be treated, when captured as prisoners of war, with kindness and humanity, and be sent home on the usual parole that they will in no manner aid or serve the United States in any capacity during the continuance of this war, unless duly exchanged.

*"Third—*That all negro slaves captured in arms be at once delivered over to the executive authorities of the respective States to which they belong, to be dealt with according to the law of said States.

*"Fourth—*That the like orders be issued in all cases with respect to the commissioned officers of the United States when found serving in company with said slaves in insurrection against the authorities of the different States of this Confederacy.

"In testimony whereof, I have signed these presents, and caused the seal of the Confederate States of America to be affixed thereto, at the city of Richmond, on the 23d day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and sixty-two.

"JEFFERSON DAVIS.

"By the President.

"J. P. BENJAMIN, *Secretary of State.*"

Soon after the proclamation was published, a citizen of South Carolina offered the following reward :

"TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS REWARD!—\$10,000!—President Davis having proclaimed Benjamin F. Butler, of Massachusetts, to be a felon, deserving of capital punishment, for the deliberate murder of Wm. B. Mumford, a citizen of the Confederate States, at New Orleans; and having ordered that the said Benjamin F. Butler be considered or treated as an outlaw and common enemy of mankind, and that, in the event of his capture, the officer in command of the capturing force do cause him to be immediately executed by hanging, the undersigned hereby offers a reward of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) for the capture and delivery of the said Benjamin F. Butler, dead or alive, to any proper Confederate authority.

"RICHARD YEADON.

"CHARLESTON, S. C., *January 1st, 1863.*"

Upon his return to the North, General Butler was received with honors and plaudits in every city and town through which he passed, and although subsequently, for some months, deprived of active participation in the civil struggle, he gave a most unwavering support to the government, and by his influence and advice, was of great benefit to the country and the cause. His public ad-

dresses in New York, Boston, and other cities, were most complete triumphs, but amid all the enthusiasm, he never forgot his self-respect nor disinterested patriotism, and upon all occasions referred in exalted terms to the Administration, which he said, it was true, was not his choice, but if, in the hour of his country's trials, he failed to support it, he was "a traitor and a false man."

RETURNS TO ACTIVE SERVICE AND ASSUMES COMMAND OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VIR- GINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA.

Early in November, 1863, General Butler returned to active service, and on the eleventh of that month he arrived at Fortress Monroe and issued the following order :

"General Orders—No. 29.

*"HEAD-QUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA
AND NORTH CAROLINA,*

"FORTRESS MONROE, VA., Nov. 11th, 1863.

"I.—By direction of the President, Major-General Benjamin F. Butler, United States Volunteers, hereby assumes command of the Eighteenth army corps and Department of Eastern Virginia and North Carolina.

"II.—Each commander of division, separate brigade, post, district or detached command, and each chief of a staff department, will forthwith report to these head-quarters the exact condition of his command, and the supplies of his department respectively, accompanied with such remarks in relation thereto as he shall see fit.

"Each report shall have minuted thereon the date of the reception of this order and the date of the transmission of such report.

"The utmost despatch, minuteness and particularity are required in these reports.

"III.—The following named officers are announced as upon the staff of the Commanding General :

"Colonel J. Wilson Shaffer, A. D. C., Chief of Staff.

"Lieutenant-Colonel J. McLean Taylor, Chief Commissary.

"Lieutenant-Colonel George A. Kensel, Inspector-General.

"Major Robert S. Davis, Assistant Adjutant-General.

"Lieutenant-Colonel J. Burnham Kinsman, Aide-de-Camp.

"Major Joseph M. Bell, Aide-de-Camp.

"Major Peter Haggerty, Aide de-Camp.

"Captain Alfred F. Puffer, Aide-de-Camp.

"Captain Haswell C. Clark, Aide-de-Camp.

"First Lieutenant Frederick Martin, Volunteer Aide-de-Camp.

"IV.—All orders heretofore issued in this Department will remain in force until otherwise ordered.

"By command of "MAJOR-GENERAL BUTLER.

"R. S. DAVIS, *Major and Assistant Adjutant-General.*

"OFFICIAL—A. F. PUFFER, *Captain and Aide-de-Camp.*

The following additional staff officers were subsequently announced :

"Col. H. C. Lee, Twenty-seventh Massachusetts Volunteers, Provost Marshal-General.

"Lieut.-Col. Herman Biggs, Chief Quartermaster.

"Lieut.-Col. R. V. W. Howard, Inspector of Artillery.

"Surgeon Charles McCormick, Medical Director.

"Major J. L. Stackpole, Judge Advocate.

"Captain Wm. Cogswell, Commissary of Musters.

"Captain F. U. Farquhar, Chief Engineer.

"Lieut. Jasper Myers, Chief of Ordnance."

On the following day he determined to nip in the bud the practice indulged in by the treasonable residents of his Department, who had been in the habit of insulting and annoying the loyal citizens and military, and he accordingly issued an order to the following effect :

"Representations having been made to the Commanding General that certain disloyally-disposed persons within this Department do occasionally, by force, interfere with, and by opprobrious and threatening language insult and annoy loyal persons employed in the quiet discharge of their lawful occupations, it is hereby announced that all such conduct and language is hereafter strictly forbidden, and will be punished with military severity.

"All officers in this Department are directed to order the arrest of, and to bring such persons as are found offending against this order before the tribunal established for the purpose of punishing offences within this Department."

A week later he paid an official visit to North Carolina, where he made a searching inspection of the fortifications and troops, and acquainted himself thoroughly with the lines and with the disposition of the troops.

The principal characteristic orders which he has promulgated are the following :

GENERAL BUTLER SEIZES THE GAS WORKS OF NORFOLK.

The Gas Company of Norfolk having sealed up their works and refused for six or eight months to light the city, General Butler ordered the establishment to be seized. Thereupon the directors came out under the "constitutional rights," and argued that the military authorities had no right to seize the works under the Constitution. General Butler's letter contains the argument of the directors and General Butler's answer :

**"HEAD-QUARTERS EIGHTEENTH ARMY CORPS, DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA, FORTRESS MONROE, Va.,
"December 29th, 1863.**

"GENERAL:—I have received your communication of the 24th of December, to A. T. M. COOKE, Esq., Chairman of the stockholders' meeting of the Norfolk Gas Company, covering the letter of Mr. Cooke to yourself, relating to the taking of the Norfolk Gas Works, by the military authorities of the United States, and beg that you will forward him this communication in reply.

"Mr. Cooke claims for the Gas-Light Company that they possess very valuable works, for which they now claim large compensation from the Government; that the majority of the stockholders have duly conformed to the requirements of General Order No. 49, and that the Company were about putting the works in order when they were taken by the Government for military purposes, in violation of the constitutional rights of the stockholders.

"It will be observed, first, that until within a few days, a majority of the stockholders have acknowledged and are known as having been in rebellion against the Government of the United States, and as having endeavored to overthrow that Constitution, about which now they so glibly talk, and have only just now taken the oath of allegiance to that Government which they have sought to destroy, in conformity to the requirements of a military order. And even now, under these peculiar circumstances, with the oath fresh in their mouths, in a communication from the stockholders to the agents of the Government, with their claims of new-fledged rights frequently repeated, the word loyalty or allegiance to the Government never finds place. They say that they have conformed to the requirements of General Order No. 49. That order requires of them nothing; and more

than one of them have said, as I am informed and believe, that they took the oath to save their property, and that they claim, not that they are loyal, but that they have taken out a protection.

"Such men, loyal with lip-service only, so far as I am concerned, have few constitutional rights which I feel much inclined to respect. When they become loyal in heart as on lip, and speak of taking the oath of allegiance to their country, not as a requirement but as a duty, it will be time enough to discuss their constitutional rights. If their property is as valuable as they claim it, why have the Company left it to go to ruin for many months, without any attempt on their part to put the gas-works in operation and light the city? Did their rebellious proclivities overcome even their love of gain, so that they were willing to sacrifice their property rather than to aid the Government of the United States by lighting it in protecting their city from the robber, the burglar, and the incendiary? Is it not true that they have refused the military authorities of the United States, more than once, to light the city, and continued in that refusal until after they were informed that the works were to be seized upon for that purpose, and the Government had incurred expenses in that behalf?

"I should be quite inclined, as an act of justice, to promise them in the future a monthly average rent equal to what they have received for the past nine months, as a compensation from the Government for the use of their works. Their Chairman talks of the economical management of the Company as compared with the prospective management of the Government, and he certainly ought to be quite satisfied if he is assured from the Government the same rent which he has received under his own management. Exactly what will be done is this: the works will be put in repair, more economically by twenty per cent. than the estimate which was made for the Company for the repair of the works.

"They will be carried on efficiently and economically, so that the city of Norfolk will be fully lighted, and its peace and quiet in the darkness of the night be assured, until it is made certain, that in case of an attack upon the city of Norfolk, the rebel proclivities of the owners will not leave the city in darkness, as a means of impairing the defence made by the United States forces, and when the owners have, by their works, and not by their lips, convinced the military authorities that they can rely upon their loyalty for aid in repelling an invasion of the rebels, and a keeping-up of the works to aid us in that behalf, then, and not until then, will the works be returned to their custody.

"In the meantime accurate accounts will be kept of the receipts and expenditures, and the excess of profits, which no doubt will be considerable, will be paid to those who are loyal in the sense of the word as understood by loyal men.

"You are at liberty, General, if you please, to cause this communication to be published for the information of other citizens, if any in Norfolk, who stand in like case.

"I have the honor to be,

"Very respectfully, yours,

[Signed]

"B. F. BUTLER,

"Major-General Commanding.

"To Brigadier-General JAMES BARNES,

"Commanding at Norfolk."

THE PERFECTIONISTS AND GENERAL BUTLER.

In Norfolk there is a society called "Perfectionists," and in their behalf some ten or twelve of their number addressed a letter to the Commanding-General, setting forth their objections to swearing allegiance to any earthly Government. The subject was disposed of by General Butler in the following manner :

"HEAD-QUARTERS EIGHTEENTH ARMY CORPS,

"FORTRESS MONROE, VA., January 13th, 1864.

"To J. F. Dozier, E. H. Beaseley, and others :

"GENTLEMEN : I have read your petition to General Barnes, setting forth your objections to swearing allegiance to any earthly government. The first reason which you set forth is that 'all human governments are a necessary evil, and are continued in existence only by the permission of Jehovah until the time arrives for the establishment of His kingdom, and in the establishment of which all others will be subdued into it, thus fulfilling that declaration in the 8th of Daniel and 14th verse, etc.'

"You therein establish to your own satisfaction three points : First—The Government, although an evil, is a necessary one. Second—That for a time it is permitted to exist by the wisdom of Jehovah. Third—That the time at which a period is to be put to its existence is not yet come. Therefore, you ought to swear allegiance to the Government of the United States ! First—Because, though an evil, you admit it to be necessary. Second—Although an evil, you admit that it is permitted by the wisdom of Jehovah, and it is not for His creatures to question the wisdom of His acts. Third—You only claim to be excused when Jehovah's Government is substituted, which period, you admit, has not yet arrived.

"Your obedient servant,

"BENJAMIN F. BUTLER."

A LIAR PUNISHED.*"Special Order—No. 23.**"FORTRESS MONROE, January 24th, 1864.*

"CHARLES H. GRAHAM, of Norfolk, having corresponded with the enemy clandestinely, by sending a scurrilous letter concerning the commanding-general, and then lying about it in the most solemn manner by denying the authorship, which he now confesses, having been confined in the guard-house until he could tell the truth, has been discharged. He would have been punished further if he had written upon any other subject.
By command of

*"Major-General BUTLER."***THE REBELS CHECKED.***"General Orders—No. 12.**"HEAD-QUARTERS, EIGHTEENTH ARMY CORPS,**"DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA AND NORTH CAROLINA.**"FORTRESS MONROE, VA., January 24th, 1864.*

"Inasmuch as the rebels of the Confederate States are sending their women and children through the lines of this Department, and retaining by law, all able-bodied male persons, it is ordered,

"1. That no white women or children will be permitted to come through the lines, without a pass from these head-quarters, or the head-quarters of the Army of North Carolina.

"2. All able-bodied men will be received, detained until reported to these head-quarters, or the head-quarters of the District and Army of North Carolina, and orders are given concerning them.

"3. Nothing in this order shall be construed in conflict with General Order No. 46, relating to colored persons.

*"By command of Major-General B. F. BUTLER.**"R. S. DAVIS, Major and Ass't Adj't-General."***ANOTHER REBEL WOMAN PUNISHED.***"Special Order—No. 25.**"FORTRESS MONROE, January 25th, 1864.*

"That Mrs. JENNIE GRAVES, of Norfolk, having a husband in the rebel States, and having taken the oath of allegiance on the 2d inst., as she says to save her property, and also having declared that her sympathies are with the South still, and that she hopes they will be successful, be sent through the lines and landed at City Point, so that she may be where her hopes and her sympathies are.

"By command of Major-General BUTLER."

GENERAL BUTLER AT POINT LOOKOUT.

Some idea of the Southern feeling for General Butler may be elicited from the following editorial which appeared in the Richmond *Examiner* of December 30, 1863. Of course, except the fact of the visit, the article is merely a succession of falsehoods :

"The five hundred paroled Confederate prisoners who arrived in this city on Monday night are mostly from Louisiana and Maryland. They were escorted to the paroled camp at Camp Lee, except a few who obtained furloughs to remain in this city. The prisoners relate an incident that occurred on the 24th instant at Point Lookout, Maryland, upon the occasion of the visit of BUTLER, the "cross-eyed tyrant," to the prisoners' camp. He came with his staff surrounding his mailed carcass, and a couple of hundred mounted guard forming a solid phalanx about him, or dashing hither and thither. The Beast, for the first time in his military experience, was in the midst of eight or ten thousand of the men he had most reason to fear, even without arms, and his guilty coward soul must have trembled as their yells, jeers and hissing volley of hatred, contempt and derision smote upon him like a pelting storm. The Louisianians were particularly exasperated, and seemed bent on personal harm to the wretch who dared, while conscious of security, to insult them by his presence, like the jackall that dances in front of the snared lion. But better counsel prevailed. A wall sixteen feet high inclosed them, with cannon mounted and pointing from the block-houses, ready to sweep them with grape. The Beast, less noble in appearance than the animal he rode, signified that he wished to speak to some of the prisoners, and struck up a conversation with a squad concerning the rations furnished. Learning the quantity and quality he said they were entitled to more and should receive it. This was evidently a compromise dodge of the old blear-eyed blasphemer, and was intended to conciliate the jeers, taunts and curses that belabored him on every side; such as, 'What will you take for your head?' 'Pay me the money you robbed me of in New Orleans;' 'Why don't you fight men and not women?' 'When did you fight your last battle?' 'How much are you worth, you burglar?' 'Oh, bag your head;' 'Why didn't you come to see us on the battlefield?' etc.

"These expressions were delivered all the while BUTLER was speaking, and at the close of his remarks he rode off with his staff and body guard, as he came, the butt of a thousand jokes and jeers.

"This exhibition of the Beast in the midst of disarmed prisoners places the cowardice of the abject wretch in a most despicable light. Knowing he was justly hated by them for the numerous wrongs practised upon them, and afraid to meet them in the field, with arms in their hands and their flag overhead, he chose to appear among them when he knew his person, while secure from harm, would add insult to the injury they had already suffered at his stained, unholy and sacrilegious hand."

Since taking command of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina, he has exercised the same independence which has marked his rule wherever he has been in an administrative position. To add to the intricacies of his other duties he has been acting as Commissioner for Exchange of prisoners, and although the rebels refuse to recognize him, in pursuance to Jefferson Davis's Proclamation, he has accomplished the release of many of the Union captives. Trade has prospered under his regulations; the people have experienced a greater feeling of security; and the new element which has been introduced into the service—colored soldiers—has rapidly increased in strength.

We do not detract from the merits of his predecessors, when we say that the selection of General Butler to the command at Fortress Monroe, was an act of wisdom which reflected credit upon the administration. Despised as he is by the rebels at the South, and their treasonable coadjutors within the limits of his jurisdiction, there is no commander they fear more, or whose orders the latter obey with more alacrity; and no greater compliment could be paid to his ability and worth as an administrative officer, than the fact that he is so despised.

THE END.

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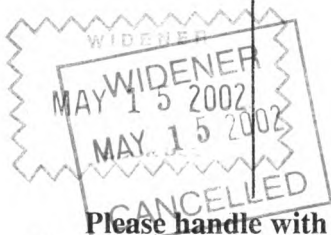
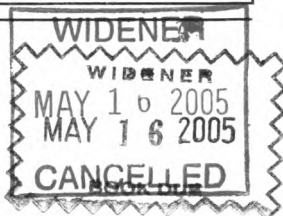
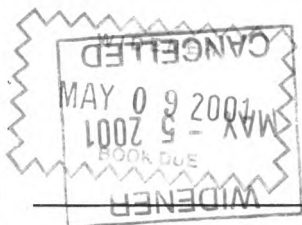
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